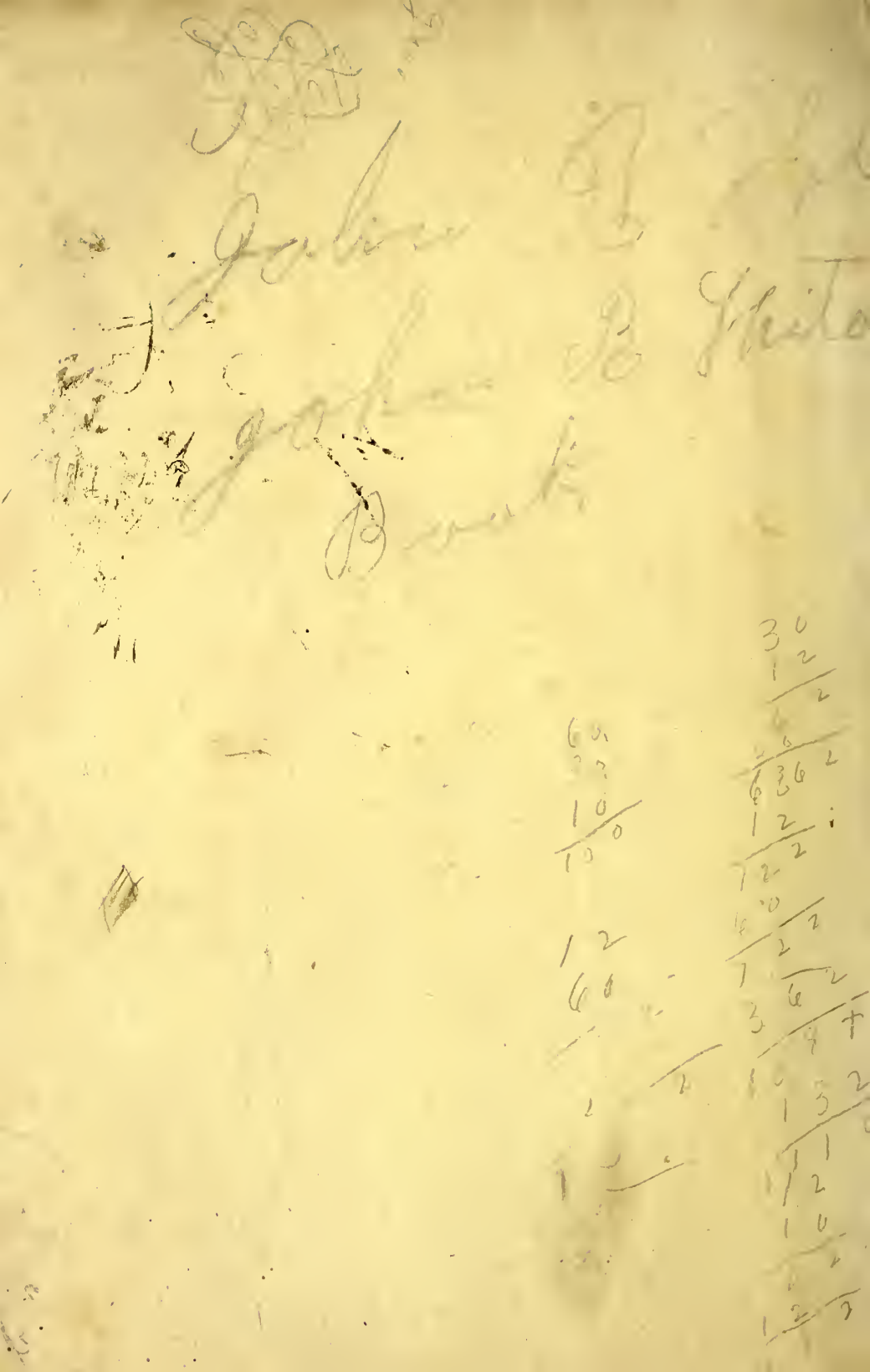
# FAMILY PRAYERS



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# FAMILY PRAYERS

FOR

# Morning and Evening Service,

AND FOR

# SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

BY

VARIOUS AUTHORS, AND MOSTLY ORIGINAL.

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PREPARED AND ARRANGED BY

REV. J. W. WELLONS,

FRANKLINTON, N. C.

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# PREFACE.

The Author and Compiler of this volume is not insensible to the opposition existing in the minds of many good persons to printed forms of prayer, notwithstanding the Saviour has given us an example; and he would state that it is not his desire to have these forms take the place, entire, of extemporaneous prayers. He would rather give the preference to extemporaneous supplications on the part of the gifted and all who have cultivated the talent. These forms are for the aid of the timid, and all who feel incompetent, from any cause, to lead in family devotions. Seeing in his own charge, and the charges of others, the great neglect of family worship, the excuse in most cases being the incompetency of the heads of families to lead in the exercise, either from timidity or an imagined lack of gift in prayer, he has felt moved, for several years, to prepare a volume of printed forms for the use of all this class of religious persons. These forms will aid the young and inexperienced in the establishment of a family altar, and may be used, when the head of the family is absent, by the wife or any

other member of the family. They will aid in keeping the thoughts from wandering and suggest words expressive of the desires of the heart.

The Compiler has solicited forms of prayer from distinguished clergymen of various evangelical denominations, whose names appear in the list of contributors, yet not a word in any prayer peculiar to any sect, denomination or creed has been furnished or admitted.

Many of the forms are of the Author's own composition, and others have been taken from similar works and reduced and altered to suit the taste of the Compiler, while a few have been admitted with but very slight alterations. All those used have been shortened, so as to prevent the worship of the family from being irksome to the younger members.

The prayers for Special Occasions will be found very applicable and useful.

A passage of Scripture has been selected and put at the head of each prayer to be read, and at the close of each morning prayer, and some of those to be used on special occasions, the Lord's Prayer has been annexed, which should be repeated together by the whole family.

A few short Forms for Children of different ages have been given. Children should be learned to pray as soon as they can lisp the name of Jesus and understand the meaning of the simplest words.

Forms of Grace before and after meals are given, together with different forms of the Benediction after worship.

This volume is given to the great Christian public, regardless of denomination or creed, after much thought and days and weeks of earnest mental labor, sanctified by fervent prayer, in secret, to the common Father of all, that His blessing may be upon the effort, and thus it may be the means of leading to the establishment of an altar of prayer in many Christian families, and exercise an influence for good upon the hearts of many when the work of the Author and Compiler on earth shall be over.

J. W. WELLONS.

FRANKLINTON, N. C., FEBRUARY 20, 1874.

# FAMILY PRAYERS.

## FIRST WEEK.

### Sunday Morning.

Psalm XC.

O Almighty God, Creator, Governor and Upholder of all things, who, after making the heavens and the earth, didst rest the seventh day and bless and sanctify it, teach us, now resting from our worldly labors, to devote the day to Thy service. O Thou, whose Son did, as on this day, rise again from the dead, grant us grace to rise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness. Help us now, in His name, to seek Thy blessing on those holy duties to which the Sabbath is set apart.

We bless and praise Thee for the appointment of this day, and for all the means of grace which we enjoy in this highly favored land. We bless Thee that Thy house is open, that Thy ministers have liberty to preach, and we have opportunity and inclination to assemble with Thy people and hear Thy holy word.

Great have been Thy mercies to us; but with shame we confess that we have slighted Thy goodness, and carelessly regarded Thy great salvation. How many Sabbaths have we broken! how many invitations of mercy have we neglected! how many warnings and threatenings have we trifled with!

O forgive us all our negligences, infirmities and iniquities. Graciously be present with us through all the solemn services of this day. Pour out upon us, and all that shall meet in thy name, the spirit of grace and supplication. Let none of us draw near to Thee with our lips only, while our hearts are far from Thee; but enable us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Grant that we may find that the Lord is in His holy temple, and be able to say, it was good for us to have been there! Prepare our hearts to receive Thy holy word, that it may be sown in good ground, and bring much fruit to perfection.

Help all of us, not only to abstain from engaging in our usual business and occupation, but also keep us from worldly conversation and from vain thoughts. Raise our affections to things above, and let our conversation be in heaven. Enable us to give this day to reading and hearing Thy word, to meditation, self-examination and prayer; and be Thou with us, to bless us in our retired devotions.

And Father of mercies, we beseech Thee to bless all that minister in holy things. Multiply unto them Thy grace, that they may be faithful and diligent; grant them humility, watchfulness and zeal; may all

have grace to take heed to themselves and to the flock over which Thou hast made them overseers, feeding the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood. Stand by and strengthen them this day; open Thou their mouths and enable them to testify boldly the gospel of the grace of God. We especially pray for them who minister among us; may they this day be enabled to speak a word in season to us and to all that hear them. By the ministry of Thy word this day convert many sinners; heal those that have backslidden; strengthen those that are weak, and confirm those that are strong. Give Thy holy word free course, and let it be glorified in every land and among every people.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

### PSALM CXLV.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, we praise Thee for the adorable perfections of Thy nature, the wisdom and strength and righteousness of Thy government, the abundant supplies of Thy gracious providence and the rich provisions of Thy grace;

we render thanks to Thee for this holy Sabbath, its calm and quiet, its sacred privileges and enjoyments, and its golden opportunities. We bless Thy holy name that once more before the close of this day we are permitted to meet and to join in Thy worship. Glory be to God most high, and to Thy name be everlasting praises!

Thy goodness and loving kindness demand our grateful returns, but O how unworthily we have lived before Thee! How great has been our wickedness in Thy sight! How numerous our offenses against Thee! Have mercy, O God! have mercy upon us! Be pleased to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, for the sake of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We accept His atonement as our only ground of hope; we receive and confide in Him as our only and sufficient Saviour, and we look to Thee through Him for all that we need, both now and hereafter. We are ignorant; grant us wisdom from above, and be Thou our Guide even unto death. We are weak; strengthen Thou us with might in the inner man, and make us strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. We are subject to temptations; help Thou us and vouchsafe deliverance, that we may be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. We often pass through trouble and experience suffering; let Thy gracious presence go with us, and Thy right hand uphold us, and make our faith strong and victorious, that we may be patient and hopeful, and ever rejoice in

Thee. Live Thou in our hearts, that we may live for Thee. Reign Thou in our affections, that we may show forth the beauty of holiness. Manifest Thyself to us more and more, that we may enjoy Thy fullness and speak to others of Thy glory.

O God, teach us to be merciful and gracious, to be like Thee in goodness, and to love as Thou dost love. Cause us to be wise and active in good works, that our light may shine, and that our lives may be like streams of blessing which bring glory to Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let it please Thee to bestow Thy choicest blessings upon Thy people, the blessings of Thy providence and of Thy grace. Make their hearts glad continually with Thy favor, and grant them Thy salvation. Establish their purposes, increase their faith, multiply their joys, and extend their usefulness. May they never lack for any good thing. And may it please Thee to give unto Thy servants in the holy office of the ministry great grace and peace, the power of the Holy Ghost, and abundant success in their labors. Send forth more laborers into the harvest. We beseech Thee to pour out Thy Spirit upon all flesh, to revive true religion in every place, and to cause Thy gospel to triumph over all opposition, so that earth's remotest nation may learn Messiah's name.

Our Father in heaven, remember the sick and the poor, the young and the old, the widow and the orphan, and the suffering of every class, and send such speedy succors, spiritual and temporal, that

they may greatly rejoice in Thy help. And lead Thou the erring, the wanderers from Thy way, back to Thee, and may sinners be converted to Thee through Thy Son, Jesus Christ.

O God, we fear we are not worthy to present ourselves before Thee, nor to ask any favor at Thy hands, but we plead for grace through Thy Son, and humbly crave an answer to our petitions for His sake, to whom with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

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## MONDAY MORNING.

PSALM XXXIV.

O THOU, who rulest in heaven and on earth, the Giver of all our mercies, and the Author of all our blessings; Thou, in whom we live and move and have our continual being, and without whose divine assistance we can do nothing that is good, we come to Thee; we come in our helplessness and in our dependence, and lay ourselves down at Thy feet to implore Thy blessing.

Lord, we thank Thee for the privileges and favors of the past Sabbath, and may every good impression made upon our minds by its services be permanent and abiding. Help us to become more and more grateful for Thy goodness.

And now, as we are about to enter upon the business duties of another day and another week,

we come to Thee and beseech Thee to take the lead of our minds, the direction of our thoughts, and prepare us for the works, the cares and the anxieties of this day. In our intercourse with others, may we be careful to do unto them as we would have them do unto us. May we be fruitful in good works, as opportunity shall offer, faithfully improving the talent which Thou hast committed to our keeping, and letting our lights shine before the world.

O Lord, keep us from murmuring or complaining at the ways of Providence. Enable us to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus; and in whatever situation we are, therewith to be content.

Favorably, we entreat Thee, incline our hearts at all times to do good to those around us, and may we always remember that we live not for ourselves alone, but also for others. Divest our hearts and minds of selfish feelings and propensities, and may we love Thee supremely, and our neighbors as ourselves. Make us forbearing and forgiving in disposition, and may we ever possess that spirit which will lead us to pray for our enemies, and to do good for evil. May all our words and actions be as becometh the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, and so may we continually grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour.

O Lamb of God, Thou that takest away the sin of the world, bear our petitions before the Throne of Mercy, and may we receive favor through Thy intercession. Thou art the Way, the Truth, and the

Life. May we come to the Father through Thee, and find abundant grace and mercy.

O Holy Spirit, Thou sanctifier of hearts, search us and cleanse us from all sin, and keep us in the right ways of the Lord.

Remember, O Father, all our friends everywhere. Be near to all that are in trouble or distress; heal the sick, comfort the feeble-minded, lift up the cast-down, encourage the despondent, succor the tempted, console the bereaved, restore the backslidden, and be a friend to all in need.

Give us all grace that will enable us to walk humbly before the Lord, and may we ever possess that charity without which, though we possessed every other virtue, we should be as nothing.

And now hear us, as we unitedly call upon Thee, in the words which Thou hast taught us to use:

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

HEBREWS I.

O LORD, hear Thou our evening prayer, for the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

With reverence and humility we bow before Thy throne, and worship at Thy footstool. Help us to humble our souls with our bodies. May we draw near to Thee with our hearts, while with our lips we call upon Thy name and worship Thee. Thou art great, and greatly to be praised. The heavens declare Thy glory, and the firmament showeth Thy handiwork; day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. As the day closes upon us, and night draws its curtains around us, before we commit our bodies to our beds for repose, we desire to commit our souls to Thee, for Thy fatherly care and keeping, during the defenseless hours of sleep.

We thank Thee, O God, for Thy goodness and mercy during the day. We thank Thee for food and for raiment. We thank Thee that our lives have been spared. We thank Thee for any success which may have attended our labors. We thank Thee, especially, for all the spiritual benefits and blessings which we have enjoyed; for the teachings of Thy word; for the secret influences of Thy Holy Spirit on our hearts; for restraining grace; for the lessons of Thy providence, and for the hope of eternal life. We praise Thee the more for all these blessings, temporal and spiritual, because we have been so unworthy of them all. We have sinned against Thee in word, thought and deed; we have neglected our duty; we have done the things we ought not to have done; we have provoked Thee to anger; and yet amid all Thou hast been merciful and kind to us. We beseech Thee, O God, to forgive us our sins. For

the sake of our dear Redeemer, blot them out from the book of Thy remembrance. Heal our backslidings. Restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation; and let us this night retire to rest with the sweet persuasion in our hearts that God is reconciled to us, and that if any of us should be called to die before the dawn of another day, we may die in peace with God and all mankind, and have ministered unto us an abundant entrance into Thine everlasting kingdom and glory.

We pray for others as well as ourselves. God be merciful to the afflicted! Comfort the bereaved and broken-hearted; give bread to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and shelter to the suffering poor. Deal tenderly with orphanage and widowhood, and dispense the blessings of a generous providence on all sorts and conditions of suffering humanity, as Thou dost the sunshine and the rain upon the evil and the good; and hasten the day when a universal righteousness shall prevail, and all flesh together shall see the salvation of our God.

And now, Father of mercies and God of love, into Thy hands we commit ourselves, our friends, and all that are dear to us, for Thy safe-keeping this night. Let no evil befall us. Shield us from the pestilence which walketh in darkness, as Thou hast from the destruction which wasteth at noonday. Give us refreshing sleep. Save us from accident, disease and death, and bring us all to see the light of a new day. Prepare us for its duties, and for all the duties, labors and trials of future life. May we

work while it is day, remembering that the night cometh when no man can work. And when the sun of life shall go down, and the night of death shall forever close our probation on earth, give us a home in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## TUESDAY MORNING.

PSALMS XCVII—VIII.

THE angels veil their faces before Thee, O Lord, and shall not dust and ashes be humbled in the presence of Thy majesty! We are afraid that we have offered unto Thee too often the expressions of our lips, while our hearts have not been in them. Pardon this sin, and grant us grace to be sincere in every act of worship. O, may we not ask for mercies which we do not really desire. But help us ever to worship Thee with reverence and with godly fear, so that we may be heard when we call upon Thee in the name of Jesus Christ.

We have been permitted to see the light of another day, not because of any merit there is in us, but of Thy great goodness. Help us to number our days so as to apply our hearts unto wisdom, and as we grow in age may we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Grant that every good disposition may be formed in us by the daily study of Thy Holy Word, which is able to make us wise unto salvation. Help us to

adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. In all our business may we remember that a review of the transactions with which we are connected will be had at Thy bar, and may we do all things heartily as unto God, and not unto man.

We pray for the Church, that all Thy followers may be true and humble, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, avoiding even the appearance of evil, and keeping themselves unspotted from the world. Keep Thy ministers holy, and Thy people pure. Animate them with strong desire to spread the Gospel over the earth, and may no labors be considered by them too arduous to promote the Redeemer's kingdom. Grant that our family may not be behind in any good work. Let the mind which was in Jesus be also in us, that we may have the honor of being His friends and the happiness of entering into His joy.

All that we desire now and ever is asked in the name and through the infinite mercies of Christ, our Mediator.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

## TUESDAY EVENING.

MATTHEW II.

O LORD, we adore Thee, as our Creator, Preserver and Redeemer. We would offer unto Thee the sacrifice of praise, with thanksgiving, for all the goodness and mercy which Thou art daily causing to pass before us. Thou hast heard our morning prayer, Thou hast preserved us throughout the day, Thou art still supplying our wants, and giving us all things richly to enjoy. Above all, O God, we thank Thee for the gift of Thy Son; for the means of grace, and the hope of glory. Bless to us at this time the reading of Thy word. May it be the sealed instruction of Thy Spirit, and may the fruit be unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Look on the face of Thine anointed, and look in mercy upon us. For Thy name's sake, for Thy mercy's sake, blot out all our transgressions. Receive us graciously, heal all our backslidings, and love us freely. Enable us to lead a life of faith in Thy Son; to hate every false way, to depart from evil and do good; to add to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity, that these things being in us, and abounding, we may neither be barren nor unfruitful, in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. And may we give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, that we may never fall, that we may endure temptation, that we may be faithful until death, and save us in the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Take us all, O Lord, under Thy protecting care

during the silent watches; suffer no evil thing to come nigh our dwelling; make us to lie down in peace, and to dwell safely under the cover of Thy wings. Bring us, if it be Thy holy will, into the light of a new day, and when we awake may we be still with Thee. We know not, O Lord, what trials may yet await us; but do Thou prepare us for every one that may befall us. We adore Thee for the riches of Thy grace, and we will trust in the wisdom of Thy providence. Thy chastisements are not for Thy pleasure, but for our profit; Thou dost not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men. We would look to Him who endured the cross for our sakes, and who, in that He suffered, being tempted, is able to succor us when we are tempted. The very hairs of our head are all numbered, and not a sparrow falleth to the ground without Thee. We will trust in Thee, and not be afraid; for Thou art our strength and our song; Thou also art become our salvation. We commend to Thee all who are dear to us. Watch over them and bless them; and may they all, together with us, be kept by Thy power through faith unto eternal life. And all that we ask is in the name of Christ, and for His sake. Amen.

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## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PSALMS XCV—VI.

O GOD, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we approach Thee as our Father, trusting in the name

and merits of our adorable Redeemer. We renounce all dependence on ourselves, wretched and miserable, and poor and blind and naked; we take Thee as all our salvation and all our desire.

Blessed God, we are not judges of what is good for us, what blessings are best to receive, what fancied good is best withholden. May we live conscious of the predominating motive of love to Thee. May we seek in every providence to hear Thy voice, in every event to read Thy will. May we refuse to listen where Thou dost not speak to us. Where Thy voice is heard, may there be the willing response, "Lord, here am I." May we feel Thy favor lightening every cross and lessening every care. Lord, give us more of the simplicity of little children. Keep us watchful and humble and thankful. Keep us from pride and vain-glory; from all envy and uncharitableness; from all evil surmisings and unkind insinuations; all that would exalt ourselves at the expense of others. May we learn to esteem others better than ourselves.

Look in great mercy on all the family of sorrow. Do Thou whisper gently to them, "I am Jesus." Man's sympathy can go but a short way; Thine can vibrate to every cord of the broken spirit. Teach us all in the midst of health and strength to prepare for the hour of adversity. There is nothing permanent here. The most secure fabric of earthly happiness may in a moment be swept down. Give us to know what it is to look to a strong tower which cannot be shaken, but remains. We are in

our true rest if we are in Thee. Do Thou gladden our pathway through life. May we be lighted through the dark valley with the torch of Thy love.

We commend our family to Thy care. Seal to them an interest in the everlasting covenant. Bless the young. May they know the happiness of those who fear Thee. Preserve them from the snares of a world lying in wickedness. May they be early "taught of God," and so inherit Thine own promise of such.

Take us under Thy love this day. "Keep us beneath Thine own overshadowing wings." May all our duties be gladdened with a sense of Thy presence and love. May we have a single eye in all we think and say and do to the glory of Him, in whose most precious words we would farther pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

### HEBREWS II.

O THOU eternal and unchangeable God, Thou art the same yesterday, to-day and forever; by Thine

almighty power and providential care we have been preserved another day, and through Thy grace permitted once more to approach Thee in prayer. Help us to consecrate ourselves, and all that we have and are, to Thee. Enable us to glorify Thee in our bodies and spirits, which are Thine.

We render Thee thanks for the mercies which have followed us to the present hour. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all His benefits.

Enable us, by Thy grace, to show forth Thy praise in a holy and consistent walk and conversation. May we let our light so shine that others, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father who art in heaven.

With an acknowledgment of Thy mercies, we would confess our multiplied offenses against Thee. But, O most merciful Father, for the sake of Thy Son Jesus Christ, pardon our iniquities. Wash us in that fountain which was opened in the house of David for sin and uncleanness. Sprinkle us with atoning blood. Create within us clean hearts, and renew within us right spirits.

Almighty God, visit in mercy the congregation of worshiping Christians with which we are connected. Make bare Thine arm for the salvation of sinners, and give abundant success to the ministration of the word and ordinances among us. To this end, revive Thy work in the hearts of Thine own children, and endow Thy servant, our pastor, with wisdom and grace from on high, that he may rightly divide the word of life and faithfully discharge the duties of his office. May the young be trained in the

nurture and admonition of the Lord, that they may remember their Creator in the days of their youth.

Bless all Thy ministering servants and Thy Church universal with an abundant outpouring of Thy Holy Spirit, and with a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Regard in tender mercy our absent relations and friends. Make them, by Thy grace, the children of Thine adoption, and heirs of eternal life. Heal the sick and comfort the afflicted.

To Thy watchful care and kind protection we commend our bodies and souls this night. Preserve us from all evil; grant us refreshing sleep; and, if consistent with Thy divine will, permit us in health and comfort to behold and enjoy the light of another day. Have mercy on all who shall this night sleep the sleep of death. Give grace to them that are appointed to die, that they may find peace in believing, and salvation in the atoning sacrifice of Thy Son Jesus Christ.

Hear us, O Lord, in these our humble petitions. Accept our thanksgivings and praise, and graciously own and accept us, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

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## THURSDAY MORNING.

### PSALM XVIII.

O GOD of our salvation, on Thee we depend for every good thing. Although we have rebelled

against Thee, Thou hast not destroyed us, but art still gracious and ready to forgive. Thou hast watched over us during the hours of our rest, and Thou hast brought us in peace and safety to the light and duties of another day. We bless and praise Thee for this undeserved protection. Thou art continually affording us fresh occasions for praise and thankfulness. O may Thy goodness lead us to repentance. May Thy preserving care be extended to us this day. Keep us by Thy mighty power from evil and danger, and enable us to live not unto ourselves, but unto Thee. May we daily walk in the way of Thy commandments, glorifying Thee in our souls and bodies, which are Thine. Thou hast assured us in Thy word, that if we acknowledge Thee in all our ways Thou wilt direct our path: we would, therefore, commit ourselves entirely to Thee, to be guided by Thy wisdom, and disposed of to the glory of Thy name.

O take not Thy Holy Spirit from us, nor withhold from us the comforts of Thy presence. But O have mercy on us! And deal not with us according to our deserts, but according to Thy loving kindness and tender compassion. Give us not over to the love and dominion of sin. Spare us and give us true repentance, and turn us wholly unto Thyself. Lift upon us the light of Thy reconciled countenance, and shed abroad Thy love in our hearts. Grant us a comfortable assurance of our acceptance with Thee, that we may rejoice in Thy favor, and glory in the God of our salvation. As guilty sinners, we

look to the Cross, and behold by faith the Lamb of God for sinners slain. Our hope is in the blood of Christ, which cleanseth from all sin. As helpless, we look to Thee for strength, and rejoice that Christ is our strength and our portion forever. As naked, we come to Thee to be clothed in the spotless robe of our Redeemer's justifying righteousness.

While we are in the flesh, O Lord, give to us all things needful for us during our earthly pilgrimage. Make us humble in all our enjoyments, and submissive and patient under all our trials, and sanctify to us all the events of Thy wise and adorable providence, till, through the merits of Thy Son and the multitude of Thy mercies, we are received into that rest which remaineth for Thy people.

Be very gracious to Thy Church universal. May all, of every name and denomination, experience a time of refreshing from Thy presence. Revive Thy work in the hearts of all Thy people.

Regard in mercy our dear absent friends. Make them all Thy friends. Guide them by Thy counsel, and afterwards receive them to glory.

Bring all nations to the knowledge and love of the truth as it is in Jesus. Hasten the coming of Thy kingdom, and save us, through Jesus Christ.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine

is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

II. CORINTHIANS V.

O LORD GOD, whose message the Gospel, and whose gift salvation is, impress upon our minds the precious truths contained in that portion of Thy word which has now been read. May they prove profitable to us for doctrine and reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness. We have heard of the judgment-seat of Christ as a scene of terror and dismay; but, thanks be to Thy name, we have also heard of an atoning Saviour, and of an incorruptible inheritance. In that Saviour may we all believe; of that inheritance may we all be heirs. If our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, may we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. In life may we have a good hope through grace of a happier life to come. By the gate of death may we enter into paradise. At the resurrection day may our bodies be raised in glory. At the judgment-seat of Christ may we be accepted of Him. Throughout eternity may we be glad with the joy of the redeemed. Grant, Father of mercies, that even now, in the believing contemplation of Jesus Christ, in the experience of Thy saving grace, and in the anticipation of the glory yet to be revealed, our hearts may be comforted and cheered. But while we

rejoice in Thy salvation, may we also labor in Thy cause. To our own souls may we give earnest heed. May the love of Christ constrain us. May the Holy Ghost assist and prosper us. God of mercy, have mercy on the world. May it become as a field which the Lord hath blessed. Give Thy ministers great success. May Thy Church be edified. May many souls be saved. Regard with kindness all more especially related to ourselves. Do them good in Thy good pleasure. From the youngest to the oldest, from the richest to the poorest of them all, peace be on them and mercy. Accept of our thanks for Thy great kindness towards us in the course of this day. Follow its events with Thy blessing, and pardon its innumerable sins. Grant us refreshing sleep this night. Raise us up, if it be Thy will, to-morrow morning; and give us grace to devote our continued lives to Thy holy service. Answer our prayers in peace, O God, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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## FRIDAY MORNING.

PSALM XCI.

O LORD, we adore Thee as God over all, blessed for evermore. Thou art the former of our bodies and the Father of our spirits; in Thee we live and move and have our being. O give us the blessing of grateful hearts, feeling that the least blessing we

have is unmerited on our part, and a gift of free grace on Thine.

We come anew, glorying in the finished work of our adorable Surety. We bless Thee that Thou art not changeable as we are, else we should long ere now have been consumed.

May the unwavering eye of faith be kept on Jesus, and we can sink no more. How many have intrusted their eternal all on the finished work of Him! Blessed Jesus, we are complete in Thee; we have nothing to pay for, for Thou hast paid all. We have nothing to procure, for Thou hast procured all. Everlasting forgiveness, everlasting righteousness, everlasting union and communion with Thee now and evermore. Let us, while living in the world, live above it. Educate us for eternity. Let Thy Spirit be our teacher, let Thy word be our guide, let Thy will be our sovereign motive, let Thy glory be our ultimate end. Let us make religion the principal thing, the one thing needful. Let us not live content with indefinite hopes of final safety. Let us not live half-way to Thee, with an eye to both worlds, and thus infallibly to forfeit both. Let our motto be "Pilgrims and strangers on the earth," "we desire a better country."

Give us a salutary sense of the uncertainty of life. May we feel that the great secret of existence is to be in an habitual state of preparedness for a dying hour, and to be living so that the step between us and death may be a step between us and glory.

Bless all connected with us. May there be ties

binding us together which will survive the uncertain ones of earth. Whether those who are now bending with us around Thy throne, or those who are absent, may an ever-present God be with them, guiding them by His grace, defending them from temptation, fitting them by the salutary dealings of His providence for the varied duties of the present life, and for the joys of His saints in glory everlasting.

Bless the lambs of Thy flock (more especially those now before Thee). We commend them to the Great Shepherd of the sheep, beseeching Him to make them perfect and to fold them in the arms of His mercy. We put ourselves in Thy hands. May all our doings this day, begun, carried on and ended in Thee, redound, through Jesus, to Thy praise and glory.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

MATTHEW XIII, 24—58.

HEAVENLY FATHER, we desire, at the conclusion of another day, to draw nigh unto Thee in a social and family capacity. Be pleased Thyself to draw

us as with the cords of affection and the bands of love. Give us to say, with Thy servant of old: As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth our soul after Thee, O God.

We would give Thee thanks that Thou hast set up a kingdom in this our world, a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, and against which the gates of hell shall not be suffered to prevail. We would rejoice in the measure of success which this kingdom, so small in its beginnings, hath already had. Hasten, we beseech Thee, the latter-day glory. May the time soon come when Thou wilt give Thy Son the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. We thank Thee more especially that this kingdom hath been set up amongst ourselves, and that we have been born in a Gospel land. O may we of this household be made willing and obedient subjects of Messiah's kingdom, so that, when the summer is past and the harvest is come, our souls may not be gathered with sinners, but may be bound up in the bundle of life. What we ask for ourselves we would also beseech in behalf of all whom we ought to bear upon our spirits at a throne of grace. Set up a throne in the heart of each one of our friends, and an altar in all their families. Bless them with Thy blessing, even life everlasting. Everywhere restrain abounding sin. Let the people praise Thee, let all the people praise Thee.

We beseech Thee to pardon the sins of which we have this day been guilty; for alas! there is no day

in all our lives which bears not the mark upon it of some wickedness committed against Thee. And that Thou art sparing us alive, and continuing to supply our wants, and giving us time and opportunity for repentance; this is not because Thou seest any goodness in us, but because Thy compassions fail not, and because Thy mercy endureth forever.

We would commit ourselves to Thy care. Watch over us during the night; preserve us, we entreat Thee, from the pestilence that walketh in darkness. Spare us, if it be Thy will, that we may see the light of a new day; and enable us to spend all the days of our pilgrimage here in Thy fear and service. Guide us with Thy counsel while we live, and afterward receive us to glory. And now unto Thee, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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## SATURDAY MORNING.

PSALM V.

ALMIGHTY and all-gracious God, with reverence for Thine august and holy character, with grateful love for all Thy mercies every morning and evening anew, we bow before Thee. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

We bless Thee for the creation of our intelligent

and immortal natures, that Thou hast made us capable of present and everlasting happiness. We praise Thee that Thou hast preserved us for so many years and through so many perils, by day and night, in childhood and riper years. We especially give Thee thanks for that kind providence that has brought us safely through the days and nights of another week to behold the light and enter upon the privileges of this its last day; but, above all, we bless Thee for the inestimable gift of Thy Son our Saviour, who came to seek and save the lost, and call sinners to repentance.

But we are painfully sensible that these mercies have not been conferred because we have merited them, for we know that we have sinned against light and love, but Thou hast bestowed them for Christ's sake, because Thou art good and doest good, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. We beseech Thee, for Christ's sake, to pardon all our sins and lift upon us the light of Thy countenance graciously reconciled. We pray Thee go before us and prepare us for all the experiences of this new-given day; graciously be with us in all the hours and needs of the day, and mercifully come after us to correct our errors, and bless all the good endeavors of the day and of the departed week.

May we be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our request be made known unto Thee. May we leave our lives, our health, our families and temporal fortunes to the care of the Wisdom that never errs

and the Goodness that never does wrong. As through the shades of the night Thy providence has been a pillar of fire, let it be this day a pillar of cloud.

With us bless Thy Church universal. Bless her membership, her ministry, her institutions, and all her enterprises. Hasten Thou the spread of the glorious Gospel, until earth's remotest nation hast heard Messiah's name.

We pray for widowhood and orphanage, for the sick, the bereaved, the destitute, for all in peril and appointed this day to die.

We pray for our loved ones, near by and far away, that it may please Thee to have them in Thy holy care, and especially that thou wouldst lead them to repentance.

We pray that throughout all the busy toils and crowding cares of this day we may have Thy love in our hearts, and Thy fear before our eyes; and grant that we may have a happy fruition of the promise, that as our day so shall be our strength. And when the day's toils and perils shall be passed, may we feel that we have traveled the narrow path, and that we pitch our tents a day nearer heaven. And when that hour comes to us, which must come to all, may it find us with girded robes and burning lamps and waiting for our Lord, and to Thy glorious name, through Jesus Christ, shall be everlasting praises.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in

earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

ROMANS V.

O LORD, we desire to come into Thy sacred presence on this the close of another day, and the termination of another week, adoring Thee for all Thy great goodness toward us. We are unworthy of the least of all Thy mercies. But the dying of Jesus has opened the door to a Father's heart. We can now look up to His glorious throne and behold His face beaming with reconciliation.

We can behold death itself stript of its terrors,—the dark valley lighted up with the countenance and presence of a gracious Saviour.

Lord, after such a pledge of Thy kindness, we believe that Thou wilt with Him also freely give us all things. If Thou deny us earthly bliss and earthly happiness, let the very denial be sweet to us, knowing that it is the will of infinite love. Other joys may fail us; Thou never wilt. Let us cleave to Thee as our souls' best portion. And if there be times in our earthly history when we are forced to exclaim, "Verily Thou art a God that hidest Thyself," we shall look forward with joy to that better

world where mystery shall give way to perfect knowledge. Lord, make us more holy; sanctify us through Thy truth; keep us watchful, keep us humble, keep us from all pride, vain glory and hypocrisy. Let us live as pilgrims, with our eyes heavenward. Let us ever be journeying, and drawing nearer Thee.

We pray for others as well as for ourselves. Draw near in mercy this night to any who may be in sorrow and distress, or who may be mourning the loss of beloved relatives. Do Thou sanctify their trials, that their very losses may turn into riches. May Thy blessing and favor and love compensate for all that the world can either give or take away.

Bless our beloved friends; enroll their names in the Lamb's book of life. Bless every member of this family now surrounding Thy footstool; give them the heritage of those that fear Thy name. Do Thou spare us long together as an unbroken circle on earth; and when we shall be called to leave behind us this lower valley, may we be conducted into those blessed regions which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, where there shall be no more parting and no more death, neither sorrow nor sighing, for the former things shall have passed away.

We commend ourselves to Thy Fatherly protection during the silent watches of the night. Do Thou give us tranquil repose, lying down in Thy fear and awaking in Thy favor, fitted and prepared for all the holy duties and services of Thy holy Sabbath. And all that we ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## SECOND WEEK.

### Sunday Morning.

Psalms I—II.

Praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion, and unto Thee shall the vow be performed. Enable us to draw nigh at this time unto Thee, in the all-prevailing name of our only Mediator, Jesus Christ the righteous. For His sake pardon our iniquity, which is very great. May Thy Holy Spirit dwell within us, that we may never walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. It is of Thy mercy that we have not followed a multitude to do evil, and this day we would bless Thy name for the institution of the Christian Sabbath. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to His abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. May we rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Be pleased, O Lord, to send forth Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead us, let them bring us unto Thy holy hill. May our delight be in the law of the

Lord, and in Thy law may we meditate day and night. Sanctify us through Thy truth. Thy word is truth. Make us fruitful in every good word and work. Make us as trees planted by the rivers of water. Bless the reading of Thy word and the public duties of Thy sanctuary. Go with us if we go to the house of prayer, and grant Thy heavenly blessings to pastor and people, that whatsoever shall be spoken or heard may be as it becometh the oracles of God. Suffer not the good seed to be choked, or to be rendered unfruitful, by the cares of this world. Thou hast set Thy King upon Thy holy hill of Zion. May all nations be blessed in Him and call Him blessed. May the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ. Visit with Thy special consolations the sons and daughters of affliction. Let them receive, O Lord, this day Thy special care.

We render our united thanks for the blessings and privileges of the by-gone week, for the rest of the past night, and for the return of Thy holy day. Unworthy of the least of all Thy mercies, we cast ourselves on the exceeding riches of Thy grace, in Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose words we sum up these our petitions:

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine

is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

HEBREWS III.

O THOU that hearest prayer, and to whom all flesh should come, we bow us down in Thy presence that we may lift up our hearts in devout supplication to Thee. Thou art to be adored as the only living and true God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and whose dominion endureth throughout all generations. Thou art also a God of loving kindness and tender mercy, to whom the guilty may come and find pardon and salvation.

Grant unto us now, our heavenly Father, the effectual aid of Thy Spirit, that our prayer may be thereby rendered acceptable and find a return of mercy and peace.

We thank Thee, O Lord, that another Sabbath day, with its train of blessings, has been permitted us, and that we are thereby reminded of the rest which remains to Thy people, and which they are to enter upon and enjoy when the cares and burdens of life shall have been laid aside forever. We bless Thee for the many and oft-repeated favors with which Thou hast distinguished us, but especially for the gift of Thy Son, whose blood is our ransom from the power of sin and death.

The debt of gratitude which we owe Thee, O Lord, is increased more and more when we consider how

we have forgotten Thee, neglected the admonitions of Thy word, and fixed our thoughts on vain and unprofitable things. And even in our attempts to pray unto Thee we are sensible of great coldness and formality, and may well doubt if such prayers can secure the notice of our God. Surely none but Him who forgiveth iniquity and passeth by transgression, and whose compassions fail not, could have so spared and favored us.

Thou knowest, O Lord, how weak and easily broken are the resolves we form to enter upon a new life and to follow more closely the teachings of Thy word and Spirit, and we beseech Thee so to strengthen us by the inward might of Thy grace that we may overcome every hindrance and win the crown of life. We desire to be made subject to Thy holy will in all things, and to be partakers more and more of the mind that was in Christ, knowing that we must bear the image of the heavenly if we are to enter the paradise of our God.

The many Sabbaths which we have seen come and go since we began the pilgrimage of life may well serve to remind us that we are far advanced on our journey, and that the close of our career cannot be far in the distance. We are moving on with the vast multitude of souls that are to appear at Thy judgment-seat. O Lord, let not Thy great and terrible day come upon us unawares, but grant that when we lie down in our last sleep it may be in certain prospect of waking with Thy saints.

We desire, most merciful Lord, that Thy word of

truth shall prevail everywhere, and that all men may become partakers of Thy grace. Grant, therefore, to go forth with the ministers of Thy word, and so aid them that they shall win many souls to Christ. May it be that the services held on this Sabbath day in the various places appointed for the same shall prove signally effectual, leading many souls to lay hold on eternal life.

We pray for the welfare of others; our kindred by the flesh; our brethren in Christ of every name and in every place; the poor and needy, the afflicted and distressed, and the souls that are taking leave of the world. Remember the sorrowing ones whose burden is sin, and set them at liberty in Christ. Carry on the blessed work of saving men by the preaching of the Cross, and send out many more faithful laborers into Thy harvest-field.

Remember how much sin abounds in our midst, and how powerless we are to stay the tide of iniquity, and let Thy grace so abound that a great deliverance may be wrought out for us.

We most humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, to give Thy grace to every one of us who bow around this altar, and as godliness is profitable unto all things, let its excellence appear in the members of this household, uniting their hearts, harmonizing their views, consolidating their efforts, and smoothing the way for the success of every laudable plan. May we set the Lord always before us; and may He be at our right hand, that we may not be moved.

And when the hour shall come for us to cross

over the stream of death, may Thy grace comfort us and give us eternal rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## MONDAY MORNING.

PSALMS III—IV.

O LORD, we give Thee thanks for permitting us to behold another day in quiet and comfort. We thank Thee for the privileges we yesterday enjoyed, and for the measure of knowledge Thou hast given us of Thy truth; for giving us a love for it; for quieting our souls in the midst of the business and distractions which surround us; for the measure of rest and repose Thou hast given us in Thee, for no true content is found without Thee. Lord, we give Thee thanks also for the temporal blessings Thou hast heaped upon us, and for the means and opportunities Thou hast given us of getting and doing good. We cannot name all Thy blessings; how shall we thank Thee for them! May we thank Thee for them by honoring Thee in them! O give us a heart to desire this sincerely, and grace to perform it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Most gracious God, we confess we have justly provoked Thy wrath and indignation against us. We have angered Thee by the sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years, by the sins of our soul and the sins of our body, by our negligences and ignorances, by the

evil things we have done to please ourself, and the evil things we have done to please others; by the sins we know and remember, and the sins we have forgotten; by the sins we have kept secret from others, and the sins by which we have made others to offend. And on this day, the beginning of another week of labor, would we confess how often in our duties we have forgotten Thee and given away to sin. But O be not angry with us forever, for we desire, with true and hearty sorrow, to confess our sinfulness, and with an earnest purpose to amend our conduct. Forgive, we beseech Thee, all we have done amiss, for His sake who died for our sins, and who now sitteth at Thy right hand to intercede for us, Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Pardon all these our sins. Deliver us from the fear of Thy wrath, that, through faith in Thy blessed Son, we may serve Thee this day with a cheerful and quiet mind, and be a partaker of the consolations of Thy Spirit, as well as walk in the way of Thy commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Almighty God, who hast commanded us six days thou shalt labor, and hast ordered us to be diligent in business, help us to perform the duties Thou hast appointed us to do; and in doing them keep us from forgetting Thee. Make us thoroughly honest in all our dealings with our fellow-men, perfectly truthful, kind and courteous, patient and loving towards every one. May we abstain from all fleshly lusts, which war against the soul and mortify the deeds of the body. Let us not live to please ourself

merely, but also for the good of others. May we follow the example of Thy dear Son, who did no sin. May we deny ourself and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present evil world, and may we come at last to Thy eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

II. CORINTHIANS IV.

MOST gracious God, Father of all mercies, God of our salvation, we desire this evening to approach the footstool of Thy throne of grace. We would end another day of mercy with the tribute of grateful hearts. What shall we render unto Thee for all Thy benefits! Never for a solitary moment hast Thou withdrawn from us Thy hand of love. We may well have no anxious thought about the morrow when we have such a God on whom to cast "all our cares," and who has given us in the past so many wondrous proofs that "He careth for us."

We desire anew to cast ourselves on the merits and righteousness of Thy dear Son. May this be

the history of each of us, "the chief of sinners, but I obtained mercy." That mercy has been bestowed on guilty thousands, and it is still free to us. We take refuge in the unchanging assurance that "He is able to save unto the uttermost."

O take these hearts of ours and make them Thine. May our inmost thoughts and desires and purposes be dedicated to Thy glory. May our time and talents be laid out for Thee, that when our Lord cometh He may receive His own with usury.

Bless all the families of the afflicted. The God of all consolation bind up their wounds. Let them know and believe that infinite love is in all Thine arrangements, that finite wisdom has no place in Thy dealings, that He with whom they have to do cannot do wrong. Give us all this lowly spirit of submission to Thy will. Whether Thou chasten us or gladden us, whether prosperity or adversity be our portion, O bring us nearer Thee. May Thy dealings serve to trim the lamp of faith and keep it brightly burning.

Extend Thy covering wings over all whom we love. Bless our own immediate household; sprinkle them with the blood of Jesus. (Write the names of the children in the Lamb's book of life.) May we all at last be included in the closing invitation to His Church, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." O that we might all be living in the joyful expectancy of a better life! May our lives now be hid with Christ in God, that when Christ,

who is our life, shall appear, we may also appear with Him in glory.

Watch Thou over us during the unconscious hours of sleep. May we close our eyes at peace with Thee, and awake refreshed and invigorated for the duties of a new day.

Hear these our unworthy petitions, and when Thou hearest, forgive, and grant us an answer in peace, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

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## TUESDAY MORNING.

PSALM XXVII.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, give us grace that we may now draw nigh unto Thee. Help us to realize our indebtedness to Thee for mercies already bestowed, and our dependence upon Thee for the blessings required for the present and the future. Reveal unto us our spiritual condition and the duties we owe to one another, to all our fellow-men and to Thee, that we may know how to pray and how to lead blameless lives in Thy service. If we have neglected any duty or committed any evil in Thy sight, we ask Thy help that we may now heartily repent; and we pray Thee to cleanse us from all sin, through the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we ever remember Thy great mercy to us.

Accept our thanks for the gifts of Thy providence,

which have supplied our daily need and multiplied our comforts and privileges. We bless Thee for the gift of Thy Son to redeem us, and for all the abounding means of grace; for Thy precious word, a living ministry, and the will and privilege to worship Thee.

We thank Thee that Thou hast kept us safely through the darkness and slumber of the night, and dost enable us to enter upon this new day in possession of so many assurances of Thy favor and love. May we spend all the day in cheerful obedience to Thy most gracious will. May all the talents that we possess be faithfully applied, so that we may grow in grace, do good to others, and glorify Thee before men. Save us from accident and sickness, from the evil influence of wicked friends, and the purposes and efforts of any who would injure us. Guard us in the moments of temptation, and give us grace for every trial. Help us to stay our minds on Thee, that we may have that peace which the world can neither give nor destroy. Minister, in thy loving kindness, to all the wants of our nature and condition.

Remember in tender mercy our absent relations and other friends. Give them what is needful for their safety, comfort, prosperity and salvation. Bless our enemies (if we have any), and all who despitefully use us. Give to them and to us the spirit of true reconciliation and peace. Provide for the poor, minister unto the sick, comfort the distressed, deliver those in extremity, save those who are dying, convict poor sinners, pardon those who seek Thee, save the children from sin, lead those who are young,

guide those of riper years, sustain and cheer the aged, relieve all who are oppressed, and enlighten, control and sanctify all who are in authority. Bless those who are called to preach Thy word, so that they may be consecrated in spirit and abundantly successful in their labors. Grant Thy Holy Spirit unto all Thy people, so that they may be one in heart and aim and effort, striving together for the salvation of souls. Revive pure and undefiled religion everywhere, give the sure knowledge of Thy pardon and love to all who earnestly endeavor to trust and serve Thee, and hasten the day when all the world shall be filled with Thy glory. Guide us who now pray to Thee. May we be united in love and devotion to Thee. May we bear one another's burdens, and help one another, by precept and example, to be faithful unto Thee. May we so live and die that at last we all may meet in heaven.

These blessings we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

LUKE XXI, 1—22.

O LORD, heaven is Thy throne and the earth is Thy footstool, and yet Thou hast graciously promised to look to that man who is poor and of a contrite spirit. Regard us in Thy tender compassion. We humble ourselves under Thy mighty hand. We have done wrong so often, we have sinned against such light and such love, that we are ashamed this evening, and bow us in the dust before our Maker. But Thou art not willing that we should perish. Thou hast given Thy Son to die for our sins. Thou hast filled Thy word with great and precious promises. We come pleading those promises. We come presenting again the plea of the adorable Redeemer's death. O, for Christ's sake, have mercy upon us! Pardon and forgive us as individuals. And if the slightest root of bitterness has sprung up in our midst, if we have failed to bear with each other and to pray for each other, if any undue severity or any carelessness has been manifested in our attempts to discharge our duties, the Lord have mercy upon us. Help us to trust in the blood and merits of Jesus Christ for final redemption.

Every day shows us how uncertain is this life. Grant that amidst its changes our hearts may be fixed where there are true joys. May our treasure be laid up in the skies; may our hearts be there. O grant us grace to consider no burden too heavy

to be borne, no cross too bitter to be endured, no foe too fierce to be met, so that we may do all Thou wouldst have us to do, so that we may be made partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, so that at the last an abundant entrance may be ministered unto us into Christ's everlasting kingdom.

And now, Lord, we adore Thee as well for our temporal as for our spiritual favors. We thank Thee that this day we have not lacked bread, we thank Thee that our reason has been continued to us, and that so many domestic comforts still surround us. We bless Thee for the advantages of living in a free and prosperous country. For our civil privileges, for our social enjoyments, we render Thee our humble and hearty thanks. May we never forget that every good and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from Thee.

And now we commit to Thy hands (our children, our servants,) our friends, and all that pertains to our interests, humbly beseeching Thee to have a Fatherly care over us in the hours of sleep, and to bring us, at the last, to Thy abode and Thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ROMANS XII.

O LORD GOD, how excellent is Thy loving kindness! Therefore do the sons of men put their

trust under the shadow of Thy wings, and therefore do we desire still to look up to that bountiful hand of Thine, from whence we have received all our good things. O Lord, be Thou pleased to look down mercifully upon us, and be gracious and favorable to us, as Thou hast ever been to those that love Thy name. Look upon us in mercy, through the merits and mediation of Thy Son our Saviour. Let us receive from Him those gifts which He is now empowered and commissioned to bestow; those gifts which are the purchase of His blood and the necessary means of our salvation. Accept and justify our persons, renew and sanctify our souls, and so transform us into Thy blessed image that we may be meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Teach us to use this world without abusing it, and to enjoy the things of it without suffering them to engross our affections. Whatever we have of the world, let it be sanctified to us by the word of God and prayer. And whatsoever we want of the things of this life, O Lord, leave us not destitute of those things that accompany salvation; but do Thou adorn our souls with all the graces of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may glorify Thee in all things, and that our conversation may be such as becometh the Gospel of Christ.

Help us in the whole of our duty to Thee, and also in the discharge of all relative duties which we owe to men. Let us never cast a stumbling-block in the way of others, or cause Thy holy name to be

blasphemed through our misconduct; but let us pass the time of our sojourning here in fear, that, having glorified Thee on earth, we may be glorified by Thee in the great day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now that Thou hast renewed Thy mercies to us this morning, help us, gracious God, to renew our desires to serve and honor Thee. Restrain us from the evils and follies into which we are prone to fall, and grant that we may think and speak and act as becometh saints, ever remembering that we are bought with the precious blood of Christ, and ever striving to live unto Him who died for us and rose again, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be glory and honor, world without end.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ROMANS XIII.

O GOD, we come into Thy glorious presence on this the close of another day, beseeching Thee to fill us with fitting conceptions of Thy greatness. What mercy it is in Thee that Thou shouldst bend Thine ear to our feeble lispings of praise, that Thou

shouldst listen to the sinner's cry! We could not have ventured into Thy presence but for Thy great love in Christ Jesus. Through Him alone it is that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts are rendered acceptable in Thy sight. In Him we are pardoned, adopted, justified, saved. In Him we shall at last be presented without fault before the throne. We may well entrust our eternal all to His keeping. Our wants are infinite, but our help is infinite. He is waiting to dispense all needed grace, and for every time of need. We feel that we require grace for everything. Every moment is a moment of need. There is not the hour or instant we can live independent of Jesus. Do Thou carry on Thine own work within us. May it be a growing work, and may we be growing Christians, growing out of ourselves and into Him who is the living Vine. May the fruits of righteousness be the living evidences of our being grafted into Him. Purge us, that we may bring forth more fruit. Forbid that we should occupy ground in Thy vineyard, and yield no revenue of glory to Thee. Do Thou search our hearts. See if there be any wicked way in us, anything that may still be hindering our progress or grieving Thy Spirit. Lead us not in our own way, but choose Thou for us. Let us rejoice in Thee as a rich provider, who will give us nothing and deny us nothing but what is for our good.

We commend to Thy Fatherly protection all near and dear to us this night. Keep them under the shadow of Thy wings; bless them and make them

blessings. May they never lose sight of the chief end of their being, to glorify Thee on earth, and to enjoy Thee forever in heaven.

Bless our own family. Take the charge of all of us this night. It is Thou who givest Thy beloved sleep. It is Thou only who makest us to dwell in safety. May each returning evening find us more ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus with all His saints. And all that we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

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## THURSDAY MORNING.

PSALM XXVI.

MOST blessed God, who hast again permitted us to see the beginning of another day, let us accept every new morning as a fresh gift of Thy bounty and love.

We come to Thee this morning through the new and living way of access. We cast ourselves on the full, free and everlasting salvation of our adorable Redeemer.

Lord, we take Thee as our only Saviour, ours only, ours wholly; ours in a living, ours in a dying hour; ours in the wilderness; ours till we reach the gates of glory—yea, ours forever and ever. It is our blessed consolation that no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that walk uprightly. So that, without one misgiving, we may well confide

our all to Thee, saying, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Let this be our consolation, "We are under our Father's direction." Make us more child-like, and obedient and submissive and heavenly-minded. We would wish to be no better and fare no better than covenant love and mercy would have us. The past is paved with mercy. We will hear Thy voice behind us, saying for the future, "Fear not, for I am with thee."

Each of us has a great work to do, and a brief time to do it in. Let us live under the power of holy principles. May we feel that we are stewards in this world, put in trust for Thy glory. Let us even bless Thee for our cares, that we may cast all these upon Thee, and know experimentally that "Thou carest for us."

Bless all near and dear to us. Our friends we commend to Thy friendship. Let not one of them be found wanting on the great day. May they be among the number of those who sleep in Jesus. Bless us who are now surrounding Thy footstool, (as parents or children.) May we all have affiance in Thee, and ever seek Thy honor and glory.

Compassionate all in sorrow. May "the poor afflicted ones" take refuge in the assurance that Thou guidest the wheels of providence, that whatever befalls them is Thy doing. May we be all so living now that we may not at last be ashamed before Christ at His coming. Sanctify us, good Lord, in body, soul and spirit. Seal us until the day of eternal redemption. And all that we ask is for Jesus' sake.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

### PSALM CIII.

OUR Heavenly Father, we would call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless Thy holy name for the many distinguished mercies of another day. Thou hast taken care of us during all of its hours, for it is in Thee that we live and move and have our being. Thou hast supplied all the wants of these frail and dependent bodies. Thou hast protected us from temporal dangers, seen and unseen. Thou hast continued to us the power of reason, and Thou hast filled our minds with pleasant thoughts of Thee and of Thy mercy. Thou hast elevated and purified, to some extent, as we humbly trust, the affections and aspirations of our souls. Thou hast constantly surrounded us with the tokens of Thy goodness and kindness and gentleness. In all our past lives Thou hast made the lines fall to us in pleasant places and hast given us a goodly heritage.

Even in the midst of darkness Thou hast given us light. In the midst of bereavement and perplexity,

and trial of every kind, Thou hast been a very present Help in all such times of trouble; and in all these tribulations Thou art aiming to purify us, and to prepare us for sympathy and companionship with Thee and with all the holy. And so with all these evidences of Thy mercy, which are fresh every morning and continued every evening, we would call upon our souls to praise and to adore thee.

And whilst we adore Thy matchless grace and Thine infinite compassion, we would also acknowledge, with humble and penitent hearts, our waywardness, our forgetfulness of Thee, our indifference to duty, our negligence, our carelessness, our want of faith, our want of zeal, our want of spirituality, our want of piety.

If Thou hadst dealt with us after our sins, or rewarded us according to our iniquities, we would long since have been cut off in the midst of our days, without hope and without mercy. But Thou art merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Like as a father pitieth his children, so Thou hast pitied us. Thou knowest our frame. Thou rememberest that we are dust, and we do praise Thee, and would magnify Thy name, for all this distinguishing grace and adorable mercy.

And now, Father, as humble suppliants, kneeling at Thy throne of grace, we pray Thee to pardon our iniquity, for it is great. Blot out our transgressions from the book of Thy remembrance, and remember them no more against us forever. Lift upon us the light of Thy countenance, reconciled in Christ, and

grant us Thy salvation. Look upon us in the face of Jesus, and for His sake restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold us by Thy free Spirit. Cast us not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us. Let the joy of the Lord be our light, and may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus.

Follow with Thy blessing whatever we have done this day for Thy glory and for the good of our fellow-men, and pardon whatever Thy pure eyes have seen amiss in our hearts and in our outward deportment. Help us to grow in grace as we grow in years, and help us day by day to sow such seeds, by precept and example, as shall yield us an abundant harvest of pleasant memories in this life and of gracious rejoicings in the life to come. And bless with us, and with all that are dear to us, all for whom it is our duty and our privilege to pray. Bless the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted, the homeless and destitute. Be the God of the widow and the Father of the fatherless. Prosper all the means of grace throughout the world, and let all the earth be filled with Thy glory.

And now, Father, when we lie down to rest this evening, may we realize in our souls that the eye of God is upon us, and that underneath us are the everlasting arms. Give us refreshing sleep in its season. Let no plague come nigh our dwelling. Awaken us in the morning, refreshed and invigo-

rated, and prepared for all the duties of another day. And thus lead us day by day, and watch over us night after night; and at last, when the night of death shall come, may we fall asleep in Jesus, and awake to the brightness of the resurrection of the just. And to Thy great name, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, shall be the praise and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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## FRIDAY MORNING.

PSALM CXIX, 73—96.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we, Thy needy creatures, render Thee our humble praises for Thy preservation of us from the beginning of our lives to this day, and especially for having delivered us from the dangers of the past night. To Thy watchful providence we owe it, that no disturbance hath come nigh us or our dwelling, but that we are brought in safety to the beginning of this day. For these Thy mercies we bless and magnify Thy glorious name, humbly beseeching Thee to accept this our morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, for His sake who lay down in the grave and rose again for us, Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

And since it is of Thy mercy, O gracious Father, that another day is added to our lives, we here dedicate both our souls and our bodies to Thee and

Thy service, in a sober, righteous and godly life, in which resolution do Thou, O merciful God, confirm and strengthen us, that as we grow in age we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We humbly beseech Thee to have compassion on our infirmities, and to give us the constant assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be effectually restrained from sin and excited to our duty. Imprint upon our hearts such a dread of Thy judgments, and such a grateful sense of Thy goodness to us, as may make us both afraid and ashamed to offend Thee. And, above all, keep in our minds a lively remembrance of that great day in which we must give a strict account of our thoughts, words and actions, and according to the works done in the body be eternally rewarded or punished by Him whom Thou hast appointed the Judge of quick and dead, Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In particular we implore Thy grace and protection for the ensuing day. Keep us temperate in our meats and drinks, and diligent in our several callings. Grant us patience under any afflictions Thou shalt see fit to lay on us, and minds always contented with our present condition. Give us grace to be just and upright in all our dealings, quiet and peaceable, full of compassion, and ready to do good to all men. Direct us in all our ways, and prosper the works of our hands in the business of our several stations. Defend us from all dangers and adversities, and be graciously pleased to take us and all things belong-

ing to us under Thy Fatherly care and protection. These things, and whatever else Thou shalt see necessary and convenient to us, we humbly beg through the merits and mediation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

I. TIMOTHY II, 1—14.

MOST merciful God, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast promised forgiveness to all those who confess and forsake their sins, we come acknowledging our manifold transgressions of Thy righteous laws. Make us deeply sensible of the great evil of them, and work in us that we may obtain forgiveness at Thy hands, who art ever ready to receive humble and penitent sinners, for the sake of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Saviour.

And lest, through our own frailty or temptations, we be drawn again into sin, vouchsafe us, we beseech Thee, the direction and assistance of Thy Holy Spirit. Reform whatsoever is amiss in the temper and disposition of our souls. Purge our

hearts from envy, hatred and malice, that we may never suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath, but may always go to our rest in peace, charity and good will, with a conscience void of offense towards Thee and towards men; that so we may be preserved pure and blameless unto the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Be gracious unto Thy Church, and grant that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may serve Thee faithfully. Bless all in authority over us, and so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands that they may punish wickedness and vice, and maintain Thy true religion and virtue. Send down Thy blessings, temporal and spiritual, upon all our relations, friends and neighbors. Reward all who have done us good, and pardon all those who have done or wish us evil, and give them repentance and better minds. Be merciful to all who are in trouble, administer to them according to their several necessities, for His sake, who went about doing good, Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. To our prayers we join our unfeigned thanks for all Thy mercies, for our health, friends, food and raiment, and particularly for the mercies and benefits of the past day, beseeching Thee to continue these Thy blessings to us. In particular we beseech Thee to continue Thy gracious protection to us this night. Defend us from all dangers and mischiefs, that we may enjoy such refreshing sleep as may fit us for the duties of the following day. Make us ever mindful of the time when we shall lie down in the

dust, and grant us grace always to live in such a state that we may never be afraid to die, so that, living and dying, we may be Thine, through the merits and satisfaction of Thy Son Christ Jesus, in whose name we offer up these our imperfect prayers. Amen.

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## SATURDAY MORNING.

PSALM CXIX, 105—120.

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed God, unto Thee would we look this morning, through Christ the Mediator, as unto the prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. We thank Thee for Thy merciful protection during the past night, and for the refreshing sleep which we have enjoyed. We laid ourselves down and slept, and rose again because the Lord hath sustained us. We thank Thee for the light of another day, and for the measure of health with which we are permitted to behold it. But, above all, we bless Thee for the light of the Gospel, and for the gift of Him who is the light of the world. Grant us, we beseech Thee, thy Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and to sanctify our hearts, that we may perceive Christ to be the chiefest among ten thousand, and the one altogether lovely; that we may receive Him by faith, and glorify His holy name by a godly walk and conversation.

We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins

and transgressions. We have strayed from Thy ways, O God, like lost sheep. We have done those things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone those things which we ought to have done. We have incurred Thy displeasure. We deserve Thy wrath. But O most gracious Father, have mercy upon us. Grant us true repentance for all our sins. Look Thou upon us in the face of Thine Anointed and forgive us all our trespasses, and enable us by Thy grace to adorn the doctrine of God, our Saviour, in all things.

Preserve us this day, O Lord, from all evil, and defend us from every danger to which we may be exposed. Give us a due sense of our dependence on Thee, and of our indebtedness to Thee for every good gift we enjoy. Enable us this day to resist temptation and overcome the evil desires of our own hearts. May we in Thy strength discharge the duties incumbent on us, and do Thy holy will in all things. May we as a family be devoted to Thy service, and as individuals may we be the objects of Thy providential care and the subjects of Thy saving grace. O Heavenly Father, remember in mercy our absent relatives and friends. May they be interested in the covenant of redemption, and be made partakers of everlasting life. May their lives and health be precious in Thy sight and consecrated to Thy service.

Bless all for whom we should pray. Have mercy upon all men, and especially the sick and afflicted. Heal and comfort them. Relieve them according to

their necessities. Give them patience under their sufferings, humble resignation to Thy will, and a happy deliverance from all their pains and sorrows. Smile graciously upon Thy Church universal, and give grace to all who minister in holy things to be faithful in the same. Let Thy kingdom soon come. From the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same, may Thy name be great among us, through Thy Son our Saviour.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

II. THESSALONIANS III.

O THOU that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. We, Thine unworthy servants, would now come unto Thee. We would worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker. Have mercy on us, and graciously hearken to the voice of our supplication. We praise Thee, O God, for the blessings of another day and another week. Through Thy preserving care we are spared to the present moment.

Grant us, we beseech Thee, an abiding sense of

our sinfulness in Thy sight. May we rely for pardon and acceptance upon Jesus Christ, and not go about to establish a righteousness of our own. May we mourn with genuine contrition over our sins and follies, and not glory in our shame. May we die daily unto sin, and live no longer therein. O Heavenly Father, give us grace to make our calling and election sure. May we not grow cold and lukewarm in Thy service, but may we be zealously affected in every good thing. May we not say peace to our souls when there is no peace, but may we work out our salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God that worketh in us, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. May we be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, and always abounding in His work.

Bless every lawful business in which we have been engaged during the week now drawing to a close. May we be thankful for all that we have enjoyed in days that are past, and humbly trust Thee for all that is needful in time to come.

Continue Thy kind and undeserved protection of us through this night, O Thou who never slumberest nor sleepest. May we rest under the shadow of Thy wing, and if consistent with Thy wise and righteous purposes, may we be permitted to behold another day, refreshed by sleep and fitted to discharge the duties and enjoy the privileges of the Sabbath. May it be a Sabbath to our souls.

Be with all Thy servants who shall minister in Thy name on the coming day. May they receive fresh

unction from the Holy One, and be clothed with salvation as with a garment. May they preach the Gospel in its purity and simplicity, with all godly sincerity and faithfulness. May sinners be converted to the knowledge and love of God, and may Thy saints be edified, established and built up in their most holy faith. May we who enjoy the light of the Gospel faithfully receive it into our hearts, that it may not prove a savor of death unto death to our souls.

Hear us, O blessed God, in these our prayers and thanksgivings, and finally save us all, through Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

## THIRD WEEK.

### Sunday Morning.

Psalm LXXXIV.

Almighty and most merciful God, our Heavenly Father, who hast made us to know and serve Thee on earth, and to enjoy Thee in heaven, look down from Thy high and holy dwelling-place upon us who have our habitations in the dust, and so enlighten us by Thy Holy Spirit, and strengthen us by Thy heavenly grace, that all our prayers may be offered to Thy Divine Majesty in humility, penitence and faith.

We adore Thee that Thou hast called us to a knowledge of Thyself, that Thou hast appointed Thy Sabbaths upon earth, and established Thy Church among men. And now we beseech Thee to prepare our hearts to worship Thee all this day in spirit and in truth. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy holy word. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Send the spirit of truth into our minds this day, that we may understand the teachings of the Sacred Scriptures. Grant us the spirit of grace and of supplication. Help us to offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving on this Thy day

which Thou hast made, and to pay our vows unto the Lord in the sight of all Thy people. May we see the beauty of the Lord in Thy temple. Help us to banish all vain and worldly thoughts from our minds. May no remembrances of the business and pleasure of the past, may no care and anxiety for the future, interrupt our worship. Help us to receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to make us wise unto salvation. And we humbly supplicate God that He will bless our pastor this day with bodily and spiritual strength, and give him encouragement in the labors of the ministry, that so he may be a great blessing to us; and may we never be an affliction to him. May no member of our family do those things which weaken the hands of the pious and strengthen the hands of the wicked. In all our walk this day may we be thoughtful and prayerful, remembering the Sabbath to keep it holy, and waiting upon the Lord so that we may renew our spiritual strength. Upon all who this day labor and pray for the extension of Christ's kingdom send down the Holy Ghost, that they may be abundantly refreshed and strengthened; and let all the congregations of Thy people be made to rejoice in that King whom Thou hast set upon Thy holy hill of Zion.

All these mercies, and whatever is best for us, we ask for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in

earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

EPHESIANS VI.

MOST blessed God, we desire to draw near into Thy gracious presence on this the close of another Sabbath, thanking Thee for all the tokens of Thy love we have been permitted to enjoy.

Do Thou come this night and take up Thine abode in each heart. Abide with us, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. We desire anew to praise Thee for Thine unspeakable gift, Jesus the Son of Thy love. There is not a ray of hope which visits our souls but emanates from His cross. We rejoice to think that He is as willing as He is able to save "to the uttermost;" that at this moment He is bending upon us a gracious eye from the Throne, pleading our cause. "Whosoever cometh unto Him He will in nowise cast out."

Lord, we come, casting ourselves on the fullness of Thy grace. Make us Thine own; sanctify us wholly, in body, soul and spirit. Let us not be slow to deny ourselves, and to take up our cross and follow Jesus. When Thou callest us to any duty or any trial, may we be ready with the response, "Here I

am." May even trials and crosses become easy to us when borne in a spirit of submission to Thy will. O that Thy love might be enthroned more than it is, as the ruling passion of our souls. May we give no sleep to our eyes, nor slumber to our eyelids, till in our hearts we find a place for the Lord.

Do Thou follow with Thine enriching blessing all the sacred services of Thy sanctuary. May Thy word be quick and powerful; forbid that impressions be suffered to die away; do Thou fasten them as a nail in a sure place, and may the Sabbath's duties and employments diffuse their own solemnity and heavenliness around us throughout the week.

We remember with affectionate sympathy the poor, the destitute, and "him that hath no helper," the sick, the bereaved, the dying. Lord, draw near to all such; let them know that Thou hast grace for their every time of need, and that there is no want to them that fear Thee. We desire for our friends Thy benediction and blessing; the Lord watch between them and us when we are absent one from another. O Thou omnipresent God, do Thou show that no distance can sever from Thee; give them every token of Thy love; preserve them from danger; guard them from temptation; number them with Thy saints in glory everlasting. Bless the lambs of the flock, more especially those now before Thee; make them Thine, bringing them to the fold of grace on earth, and to Thy heaven of glory hereafter.

Bless that branch of Thy Church with which we are connected; bless Thy holy Church universal;

have mercy on those who are still sitting in darkness and in the region and shadow of death. Do Thou watch over us during the unconscious hours of sleep. May we awake in the morning in Thy favor, that so every new day being spent to Thy glory, may find us better fitted for entering on the joys of Thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour. Amen.

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## MONDAY MORNING.

PSALM CX.

ALMIGHTY GOD, dispose of our hearts by the gracious influence of Thy Holy Spirit, to worship Thee through our Mediator, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thou art God, and there is none beside Thee, the Creator of heaven and earth. We bow and worship at Thy footstool. Accept our thanksgivings for the mercies of another day. Thou gavest us our being, and Thou preservest us from day to day. Through the defenseless hours of the night Thou hast kept us in safety. But O Lord we bless Thee that we were not born in heathen lands, but in this favored country, where the light of Thy truth clearly shines. We thank Thee for the comfort of the Holy Scriptures, for the labors of faithful ministers, and for all the means of grace. We are invited to come to Thee; though we be guilty and sinful, we are freely offered pardon, peace and salvation. We desire now afresh

to devote ourselves to Thy service. Grant that our spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. But we would confess that we have been rebellious and disobedient. Thou art holy, but we are unholy. Thou art merciful, but we have often been selfish and unkind. Thou art pure, but we are impure. Thou art patient, but we are impatient. We have abused Thy gifts, and made them occasions of sin. Forgive us all our offenses. Remember not against us our transgressions. Lord, help us to love Thee; teach us to serve Thee. Give us Thy strength that we may overcome our corrupt nature. Grant that this day we may have power from on high to resist every temptation, and to live in the spirit of prayer, faith, humility, self-denial and love, and to walk before Thee in that narrow way which leads to eternal life. Teach us to do good to all men, and to seek, according to our means, to visit and relieve the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and do Thou keep us unspotted from the world.

Hear us, Father, in behalf of our relations and friends, our neighborhood, our ministers, and all for whom we ought to pray. Help those that are weak. Comfort those that are cast down. Heal those that are sick. Relieve those that are in distress. Be merciful unto Thy Church. O bless us, and cause Thy face to shine upon us, that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Give wisdom and power to every effort of Christian love for spreading Thy Gospel.

Gracious Lord, not for our worthiness, but for the only name's sake of Jesus Christ, hear these our prayers, which we sum up in His own words:

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

LUKE X, 1—24.

O THOU who art light, and in whom is no darkness at all, we would praise and magnify Thy name for Thy sovereign goodness towards us, in sending the knowledge of Thy Son to these distant isles of the sea. We adore Thee for this, that poor and miserable and wretched as we are by nature, Thou hast in Christ Jesus made provision for restoring us to Thy favor, by blotting out our sins. And since Thou hast brought to our knowledge the plan of redemption, and permitted us to learn it by the hearing of the ear, O living God, complete Thy mercy by enabling us, through Thy grace and Spirit, to believe with the heart to the saving of the soul. May Jesus Christ be in us by His Spirit, the hope of glory. May we be taught to live by faith on the Son of God. May the kingdom of God be within

us, that kingdom which consists in righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Our heart's desire and prayer, O God, is that we may have in us the mind of Christ, and be before Thee, even as He is, through faith in His name as the Prince of Peace. And blessed God, hear our prayers while we beseech Thee to spread the savor of that name throughout the world. May Thy Church, through all its borders, soon become a missionary Church, even till, by the unction of the Holy Ghost, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess at the name of Jesus. May Thy ministering servants be full of the Holy Ghost. May they be taught to glory only in the Lord, and to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified. While we beseech Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to sanctify us in the use of all our privileges, we would also thank Thee for the happiness and the protection of another day. Forgive the sins we have committed in its course. Sprinkle us with the blood of cleansing, and speak peace unto us. Prepare us for death, judgment and eternity. Take us under Thy guardianship for this night. May no evil befall us; may no plague come near our dwelling. Grant refreshing repose. Prepare us for all our duties. And in Christ Jesus be our everlasting portion, for Thy great name's sake. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

### PSALM LXXXII.

O LORD, Thou art a Spirit, and no man hath seen Thee at any time. Thou goest by, and we see Thee not. Thou passest on also, and we perceive Thee not; yet art Thou nigh to every one of us, for in Thee we live and move and have our being. Thou hast preserved us through the silent watches and brought us unto the light of a new day. We would this day acknowledge Thee our Creator, Preserver and Redeemer. From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God, but all flesh is as grass. We all do fade as the leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away. Who can say, I have made my heart clean; I am pure from my sins! Every way of man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord pondereth the hearts. There is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not. We bless Thee that Thou hast laid our help upon One that is mighty to save. As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. O Lord, let Thy Holy Spirit take of the things that are of Christ, and show them to us, that we may know our need of a Saviour, and flee for refuge to the hope set before us in the Gospel. Create in us, O God, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Sanctify us through Thy truth, that, dying daily unto sin and living unto righteousness, we may grow daily in conformity to Thy will, and be prepared to meet our God. Follow

with Thy blessing our reading of Thy word and our meditations at this time. Do Thou grant us in this and every season of grace refreshing from Thy presence. Lord, dwell in this house and family. Never leave us, and never forsake us. In our several places, duties and relations, may we all have a single eye to Thy service, and do all things to Thy glory. Shed abroad Thy love in our hearts, that we may love the Lord our God with all our hearts and soul and mind and strength; that as Thou hast loved us, we may love one another with pure hearts fervently; that we may bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts find acceptance with Thee, through Christ our strength and our Redeemer.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

### PSALM LXVII.

O OUR kind and gracious Father, by whose good providence we have been brought in safety to the close of another day, we thank Thee for Thine

unwearied love and patience towards us, and for the many mercies Thy bountiful hand has bestowed upon us and upon those we love. We now commend ourselves once more to Thy Fatherly care and protection. Forgive us, for Thy dear Son's sake, the many sins of thought, desire, word and deed of which we have this day been guilty. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and deliver us from the power as well as the penalty of our sins. Cleanse the very thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, and make us pure within. Deepen our repentance. Increase our faith. Help us to live nearer in heart to our Lord Jesus Christ, to love Him more sincerely and fervently, and to become more and more like Him in our temper and spirit. Help us to bear more meekly whatever trials Thy wisdom and love may choose to put upon us. Help us to do more diligently and lovingly the duties Thou requirest of us, that so in the last great day Thou mayest acknowledge us as Thine. Number us amongst Thy saints in glory. O that all whom we love, too, may be gathered with us in that day. Give them now, each one, a new and contrite heart, and may their lives be consecrated to Thy service. Pour out Thy Spirit upon the world that lieth in wickedness around us. O blessed Redeemer, save the souls for whom Thou hast shed Thy precious blood, and hasten on the coming of Thy glorious kingdom. Take us now under the shadow of Thy protecting wing; and when the night of death shall come, O may we rest in Thee.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

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## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PSALM C.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious Father, Thou hast made another day to dawn upon us, and given us the comfortable prospect of the continuance of life and all the varied blessings by which it is sweetened. While we express in words our lively gratitude for that and every gift of Thy bountiful providence, we pray that Thou wouldst enable us to evince that gratitude by the cheerful obedience of our hearts and lives; and while Thou art addressing us by every motive that can influence the human mind, may we yield Thee that love and service which, by the law both of nature and grace, we are bound to give. Thou hast formed us with a capacity of loving and serving Thee; but alas! we have not loved and

served Thee as purely as we ought to have done. We have often given our hearts and affections to other objects than to Thee, and have thus violated the first precept of Thy law, which requires us to have no other gods before Thee. Pardon our sins; enable us to love Thee with pure hearts, for the divine excellencies of Thy character, and for the tokens of Thy kindness, especially for Thy kindness towards us in Christ Jesus, and from a firm and enlightened persuasion that Thy service is the only reasonable and free and happy service; to resolve that whatever others may do, as for us, we shall serve the Lord. Confirm and establish us in this resolution; and as we know from painful experience that we are too apt to fall into sin, in spite of what we know to be our interest and duty, we pray that Thou wouldst strengthen us with all might by Thy Spirit in the inward man, and animate us by that faith which overcometh the world, the flesh and the devil, and which will keep us steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Prepare us for all that is before us in the course of this day. Amid all the scenes and duties to which we may be called, may we carry about with us a sense of Thy presence and of the relations in which we stand to Thee, and be enabled to live to Thy glory. In any trials which may be appointed to us, help us to manifest the spirit and temper of the disciples of Christ, to have our affections crucified unto the world, and to pass through all its progressive stages as strangers and pilgrims who are seeking a

better country. Bless all whom we are bound, by natural or Christian affection, to remember at Thy throne of grace. Be a sun and shield unto them; give them grace and glory, and withhold no good thing from them which Thou knowest they need. Be gracious to every member of this family. Let Thy presence go with us wherever we go, and Thy blessing rest on us wherever we dwell. All which we ask and hope to receive through Christ.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

### JOHN II.

MOST blessed God, Thou hast again, in the multitude of Thy mercies, permitted us to meet together around Thy holy footstool. Draw near to us in Thy great kindness, enable us to end another day with Thee, and to retire to rest this night in the conscious possession of Thy friendship and love.

What are we that we should be permitted to speak unto such a glorious and infinite God! We are dust and ashes, creatures of a day, who might long

ere now have been spurned from Thy presence. Blessed be Thy great and holy name for all the manifold proofs of Thy love. Thy ways are not as our ways; had they been so, we must all of us have perished without hope. Give to each of us this night to know the blessedness of being at peace with Thee. Give us a deep and abiding sense of our vileness and unworthiness. May we seek to imbibe more of the spirit and copy more of the example of our Divine Redeemer. May we feel it to be our joy to serve Him, our privilege to follow Him, our sorrow to vex and grieve Him. Take us and use us for Thy glory; sanctify our affections; elevate our desires; may we have more of the character of holiness and breathe more of the atmosphere of heaven. Keep us from being over-careful and over-troubled about earth's many things; enable us to be more solicitous about the one thing needful; may we be covetous only of the solid and durable riches of eternity.

Bless our beloved relatives; may they all be enabled to claim a common kindred with the one Elder Brother on the Throne. Set Thine own mark on each one of us. Though we may be separated from each other now, may Thy blessed angels gather us together at last in the same bundle for the Heavenly Garner.

Let none put off preparation for death till a dying hour; the present hour is all that we can call our own. May we be living in that state of holy preparedness for death, that when the silver cord by which life is

suspended is broken, we may awake up in Thy likeness in glory everlasting.

Look down on Thy Church everywhere throughout the world; purify her more and more; may no weapon formed against her prosper; may her ministers be men of God, and may her saints and people shout aloud for joy. Do Thou satisfy Zion's poor with bread. May every afflicted one receive out of the wells of Thine own consolation, and be led meekly to say, "The Lord's will be done."

Graciously take the charge of us during this night. We commend us all to Thy Fatherly protection and care; whether we wake or sleep, may we live together with Thee. And all these blessings we ask in the name of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

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## THURSDAY MORNING.

### PSALM CVII.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Evil cannot dwell with Thee. It is only because of Thy great mercies in Christ that we are not consumed. We bless Thee for all that Jesus hath done, for all that He is willing to do. Having purged our sins, He has forever sat down on the right hand of God, and there he must reign until He hath put all enemies under His feet. May the fountains of the great deep of sin be broken up. Spare us, good Lord, spare Thy people, whom Thou

hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us forever.

We would cast all our cares on Thee, knowing and rejoicing that Thou "carest for us." Seeing Thou hast loved us with such an everlasting love, may we love Thee better in return. May the best of our thoughts, and the best of our lives, and the best of our time, be surrendered freely to Thee. Let us trust Thee in everything; let us see Thy faithfulness in every event in our chequered and changing histories. How Thou hast smoothed our way in the past! Every thorn has been blunted; every cross has been lightened; our fears have been disappointed, our fondest hopes fulfilled. We will trust Thee in the future. If sorrow should darken our path, keep us from that guilty atheism which refuses to see in our trials any other hand but Thine. Let us feel that the great Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep cannot lead us wrong.

Bless our dear friends; may the Lord be their keeper; may the sun not smite them by day, nor the moon by night. Do Thou preserve them from all evil, in their going out and in their coming in.

Be merciful to the family of affliction; those laid on beds of pining sickness; those bereaved of beloved relatives. May it please Thee to help, succor and relieve them; may they know Thine own blessed name; may they take comfort in the assurance, "The Lord will provide."

Be Thou with us throughout this day; sanctify all its duties; go with us where we go, dwell with

us where we dwell; may we pitch our tent ever near Thyself, and then we shall be safe. Hear us, gracious God, and accept of us for the Redeemer's sake.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

ROMANS XV, 1—18.

MOST merciful God, Thou hast in Thy great goodness brought us again around the footstool of Thy throne of grace. During the past day many have gone into eternity. We are spared. Thou hast been shielding us from manifold dangers, with unwearying watchfulness. None is so able, none is so willing as Thou art to befriend us in every danger, and guide us in every perplexity. We can experience no real blank and mourn no real loss, if we have Thee. We desire this night to retire to rest in the assured confidence that we have Thy favor resting upon us; forgive all the sins of the past day, its sins of omission and commission, of thought and word and deed; whatever has been inconsistent with Thy pure and holy will. Let every day leave behind it the

holy impression of some holy deeds. Make us more zealous for Thy honor and glory. As we are daily approaching nearer death, may we be better prepared for it.

Bless all who are in sickness and sorrow this night. Bind up their wounds. May their trembling spirits repose on Jesus, and they shall be more than conquerors.

We pray for a whole world. Pity the nations that are sunk in heathen darkness. When the enemy is coming in like a flood, may the Spirit of God lift up a standard to resist him. Bless all Thy faithful missionaries. In lands where Christian sanctuaries are not, be Thou a little sanctuary to all Thy true servants; may they feel that the pleasure of the Lord is prospering in their hands; may they be the honored instruments in preparing many souls for Immanuel's crown. Direct their hearts into Thy love, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

Bless our household. May it be one of the tabernacles of the righteous, where the voice of joy and praise is often heard. Bless parents and children. May the joy of the Lord be our strength. May we feel that in keeping Thy commandments there is a great reward.

As the pillar of cloud goes before us by day, may the unseen pillar of fire be with us by night. May angels gather around us during the unconscious hours of sleep; may no danger befall us and no plague come nigh our dwelling. If pleased to spare us to see the light of another day, may we rise fitted

and prepared for all the duties to which we may be called. And now unto Him who is alone able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, be ascribed all blessing and honor, dominion and praise, world without end. Amen.

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## FRIDAY MORNING.

### PSALM XXXVII.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we come to bow down and worship in Thy presence. Thou hast taught us to call Thee, "Our Father, which art in heaven." In that name we recognize Thy love to us. It teaches us also that Thou art very great, and highly exalted above all our thoughts. We worship Thee this day as the Author of our being, our kind Preserver, our merciful Redeemer, the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Gracious Father, Thy mercies to us have been great and manifold, but our sins have been grievous. We have been inconstant in goodness; we have neglected our duties; our aspirations after a higher life have been feeble. We have loved the world too much. Too often we have yielded to sore temptation and transgressed the laws of our God. Pardon us, O God, for Thy great name's sake, and aid us by Thy continual grace to walk hereafter in newness of life. We pray Thee to accept of us this morning. Give

us some token of Thy favor. May our hearts feel Thy presence with us. May we know that our names are written in the Lamb's book of life. We would renew our vows to Thee; we would dedicate ourselves again to Thy service. O Lord, give us willingness of mind; give us cleanliness of heart; give us strength of soul, that we henceforth may do Thy will and glorify Thy name. Thou hast taught us to lift up holy hands for all men everywhere; they are all our brethren; some of them are in trouble. O Lord, be Thou their refuge and their present help. May they find comfort in Thee, and may they rest in Thy love. Some of them are in heaviness through manifold temptations. Lord, succor them very speedily, and give them strength to have victory, and to triumph against the devil, the world and the flesh. Some of them are sick and some are dying. May it please Thee, O Lord, to heal the sick and prepare the dying for the solemn change. Send out Thy light and Thy truth into all the earth. Widen the borders of Zion; enlarge the heritage of Thy Son. May Thy truth be everywhere triumphant, and may Thy kingdom everywhere prevail. Especially we pray Thee to bless Thy servants who preach Thy word; endue them with power from on high; clothe them with salvation; lay the burden of souls upon their hearts, and help them to preach Thy truth in the demonstration of the Holy Ghost. Vouchsafe Thy blessing to us as a family. Shelter us beneath Thy wing of love. Feed us with food convenient for us. Defend us from all enemies and

preserve us from all disasters. Help us to love one another; may we bear each other's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. May our lives be useful; may we die in peace, and when our earthly course is run, may we find our endless home at Thy right hand in heaven.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

JAMES III.

GRACIOUS FATHER, we approach the footstool of Thy throne this night, adoring Thee as the God of our life and the length of our days. We bless Thee for the many tokens of Thy love daily bestowed upon us, for food and raiment, for health and strength, for friends and home, for all that brightens our pathway in life, for all that cheers our prospects beyond the grave. Lord, how often hast Thou disappointed our fears, answered our prayers and fulfilled our hopes! How often has Thy grace and mercy made arduous duties easy, and leveled mountains of difficulty! How often, when sin caused our hearts to be overwhelmed, hast Thou led us to the

Rock that is higher than we! How often in seasons of sorrow hast Thou conducted us to that same blessed shelter, and spoken comfortably to us!

We come anew to Thee this night, weary and heavy-laden, beseeching Thee to give us rest. We lament that we do not feel as we ought to do the burden of sin. Bring us in poverty of soul to cry out, "God be merciful to us, sinners." Show us the infinite adaptation of the Redeemer in His person and work to meet all the necessities of our tried and tempted natures; may His name be as ointment poured forth; may His blood be our only plea, His love our animating principle, His glory our chiefest end. May our souls become holy altars from which the incense of obedience and love is ascending continually. May we become patterns of all that is pure and unselfish, and virtuous and good. May we be enabled to do Thy will and love Thy will because it is Thine; may we be enabled not only to pull out the beam, but to pluck out the mote that would dim our spiritual vision; may our eye be single, that our whole body may be full of light.

Keep Thy churches faithful; may they earnestly contend for the faith. Sanctify affliction for all Thine afflicted people; thy chastisements are mercies in disguise; all are tempered with love. Thou watchest every sheep in the fold, and when they are led out to the rougher parts of the wilderness, Thou "goest before them."

We pray for those who are living without God, and therefore without hope. Let them not put off

until they come to mourn with unavailing tears over wasted hours and forfeited opportunities. Convince every procrastinator how sad it is to be standing on the brink of eternity with that eternity unprovided for. Bless us, O God, who are now bending at Thy mercy-seat; warm our love; quicken our graces; let us live more constantly under the powers of a world to come. Ere we lay our heads on our nightly pillows, we would lay our sins afresh on the head of the Surety, that we may retire to rest at peace with God, ready, if need be, to wake up in glory. And all that we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

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## SATURDAY MORNING.

PSALMS XIV—XV.

WE desire to offer Thee, O Lord, the Creator of light, our morning sacrifice of gratitude that the light of heaven shines upon us again. We would join our voice with the whole family of heaven and earth in blessing and praising Thee. The sun has dispelled the darkness, and is diffusing heat and light on the world. Shine also into our hearts, O Father of light, by Thy Spirit, and give us to see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ; and may we be changed into the same image, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Thus may we come to resemble Thy

likeness, and be conformed to Thee in righteousness and true holiness. Teach us by Thy Spirit to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent. May we confide in Thy providence, believing that our most minute concerns are known to Thee, and may be reconciled to whatever Thy wisdom appoints. Shed abroad the love of God in our hearts, that we may love all Thy moral perfections, and delight to walk in the ways of purity, goodness and truth. We commit ourselves to Thy guidance this day. We are in Thy hands, O Heavenly Father. Do with us as seemeth good in Thy sight, and overrule for good all the dispensations of life. Help us to discharge our duties aright; guide us by Thy counsel; sustain us by Thy grace; animate us with the glorious hopes of immortality; cheer us with Thy promises; help us to fix our eyes on our Redeemer, who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, and is set down at the right hand of God. May we walk in the steps of His patience, and persevere and endure to the end, and at length come to live with Him in His glorious kingdom. These and all other blessings we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Mediator.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine

is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

ROMANS XII.

O LORD, we desire to approach Thy throne of grace. May we this night enter the inner chamber of Thy presence. Draw near to us as we draw near to Thee. We bless Thee that Thou hast spared us during another day and another week. Let us end every day and every week as if these were possibly our last, as if the midnight cry might break upon our ears ere we see another rising sun or a returning Sabbath.

We come acknowledging that it is of Thy mercies we are not consumed. We confess our proneness to depart from Thee the living God, our reluctance to render to Thee the tribute of our undivided homage and love.

Lord, we bring our sins and lay them on Jesus. We bring our weakness to His Almighty strength, the insufficiency of the creature to the "all-sufficiency in all things" promised by the Great Creator. Give us to experience the blessedness of an unreserved, unwavering trust and confidence in an unchanging God. Let us commit the unknown morrow to Thy better wisdom, saying, "Teach us the way wherein we should walk; we lift our souls unto Thee." Enable us to repose in quiet assurance in the infinite and unmeasured fullness of Thy grace and mercy,

following Thee not in plain and smooth places only, but in rough and rugged, too, feeling that, even though at times mysterious, "the ways of the Lord are right, and all His works are done in truth."

While we pray for ourselves we would remember before Thee all whom we ought to bear on our spirits at a throne of grace. Prosper Thy cause and kingdom in the world. Bring the wickedness of the wicked to an end. Bless the young; may they spring up as willows by the water-courses, trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord. Bless the aged; may they be gathered to the garner of the Great Husbandman, as the shock of corn in its season, full of years and ripe for glory.

Bless all Thy faithful ministers, especially those who to-morrow are to deal out the bread of life; strengthen them outwardly and inwardly; may their arms be made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; on the great reaping day of judgment may they, too, appear with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them. Bless us as a family, parent and child. Let us all own one Father in heaven. Whether we wake or sleep, may we live together with Thee. There is no darkness to us if Thou art with us. Defend us during the unconscious hours of slumber, that we may rise on Thy holy Sabbath fitted for duty, happy in the assured continuance of Thy favor and love. And all we ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## FOURTH WEEK.

### Sunday Morning.

Psalms LXVI—LXVII.

Most gracious God, who hast, in Thy good providence, again permitted us to see the light of Thy holy Sabbath, do Thou draw near to us in Thy great mercy. Thou hast dispersed the darkness of another natural night; may the Sun of Righteousness arise upon us with healing in His beams. May our fellowship this day be with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. May the world be excluded, that we may be alone with God. We bless Thee for the great truth which this day commemorates, that Jesus has burst the bands of the grave and triumphed over principalities and powers. The Lord is risen! He hath satisfied all the demands of God's holy law, He hath fully vanquished all our foes, Satan's power is overthrown, and the kingdom of heaven is opened to all believers. May we be enabled this day to rise by faith with our risen Lord, and walk with Him in newness of life.

We take refuge anew at the foot of the cross. Guilty, weak, worthless, perishing, we come. Wash us, O blessed Saviour, in the fountain of Thy blood. May Thy grace bring us and keep us nearer Thee. Let us cleave unto Him with full purpose of heart.

Let there be no halting between two opinions. Let us ever bear about with us the recollection that time is short. Let us live as if this Sabbath were to be our last. May a sacred spirit pervade all its services. Let the gleanings of the Sabbath form the food of our souls during the week. May something that we shall hear this day come home with power to our hearts, and form a hallowed preservative against the world's snares and dangers and temptations.

We pray for those who dishonor Thy Sabbaths and profane Thy holy name. Ere the door of mercy is forever shut, do Thou turn them from their wickedness, point them to Jesus, and show them that "neither is there salvation in any other." Unfold to them the fearfulness of meeting Thee unprepared. Let them know the preciousness of that precious assurance, "He is able to save unto the uttermost."

O God, draw near to the afflicted. Do Thou bless all related to us. May they be safe under Thy tender guidance, and repose in Thy love. Bless our children; pour Thy rich grace into their hearts. Let them not fall a prey to the allurements and enticements of a present evil world, but may they walk as seeing Thee, who art invisible.

Let Thy mercy, O God, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee; and when our Sabbaths on earth are ended may ours, at last, be an unending Sabbath in Thy presence and favor. And all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always, and to whom, with Thee, the Father,

and Thee, O Eternal Spirit, be ascribed all blessing, world without end.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

HEBREWS IV.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, we would lift up our eyes to Thee, as to the hills from whence cometh our help, for all our help cometh alone from Thee, and Thou art the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Let the spirit of grace and supplication pervade our hearts while we make mention of the name of the Lord, that our petitions may come up with acceptance before Thee.

We bless Thee, O Father, not only for the Sabbath which we have this day enjoyed, but also for the privilege of Thy worship, and for all the benefits connected with this day, well calculated, as they are, to lead our minds to the contemplation of heaven as the serene and undisturbed resting-place of all such as shall come up at last, purified, from the tribulations of this world.

We thank Thee for Thy precious word, wherein

Thou dost show us the path of life and admonish us of all destructive ways. We thank Thee, we bless Thee, we praise Thy name for the Gospel plan, and for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Saviour, through whose merits alone we dare appear in Thy sight.

O Lord, our God, who only hast power on earth to forgive sins, and who dost invite the chief of sinners to partake of Thy mercy, we make now our confession to Thee of the many instances in which we have transgressed Thy law, both by doing that which was forbidden us to do, and by leaving undone that which was required of us to perform. Absolve us, O Lord, from all these our sins, and let our hearts be sprinkled anew with the precious atoning blood which can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Give to each one of us a new heart and a new spirit, that by the harmlessness and consistency of our lives many others may be won to Thy cause and service.

O most holy and merciful Father, we would bring our many petitions before Thee, remembering the injunction of Thy word, that we make intercessions for all men with supplications, prayers and thanksgiving. We invoke Thy blessing upon the poor and needy, and upon all who are in anywise afflicted; with the widows and orphans everywhere. Deal mercifully with such as are penitent, and with all who seek Thy face sorrowing. Let Thy powerful hand be with Thy followers, to remove every obstruction to the advancement of Thy cause, that the

word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified. Let Thy kingdom come, Thy kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, and Thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven.

Remember Thy servants who have gone to carry the message of salvation to distant heathen lands, and to preach Christ at the peril of their own lives. Thou alone, O most holy Lord God, knowest what they suffer and dare to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to the perishing heathen, and we pray that Thou wouldst encourage and sustain them in their arduous work, and make them instruments in winning victories for the King of kings.

Remember also such as are laboring in our own land to make known the mysteries of Thy Gospel and to lead souls to Christ. Give them success everywhere, and let the day come when the wickedness of the wicked shall be known no more among us.

Strengthen, O Lord, the cords which bind Thy people of every name together, and increase in them that ardent brotherly love which shall promote Thy glory upon earth and Thy praise in heaven. Help us, as members of this family, to truly understand the relations we sustain to one another, to our fellow-men and to Thee, and so help us by the might of Thy Spirit that we may discharge every duty devolving upon us, glorifying Thee both in our bodies and spirits, which are Thine.

May none of us be strangers to that blood which bought our pardon on the tree, or by any form of

disobedience forfeit our claim to the rest awaiting Thy saints in heaven. May the fearful example of those who, in the olden time, failed to enter in because of unbelief, serve to quicken us in the way of duty, that we may strive to enter in at the strait gate. May the solemn exercises with which we close this day remind us of that inevitable hour when we must put off this tabernacle of clay and be shut out from the sight of all the living. Prepare us, dearest Lord, to close our lives in peace and enter into Thy eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## MONDAY MORNING.

PSALM XIX.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, who hast brought us to the beginning of this another day, defend us therein by Thy mighty power. Grant that we may not fall into any danger nor indulge ourselves in any sins, but may we be governed by Thy holy word and guided by Thy Holy Spirit, and cleansed by Thy holy blood, so as to be acceptable in Thy sight. Grant us grace, merciful Father, to bear in our memory and to carry out in our lives this week all that we learned of Thy righteous will on Thy holy day. Wherever we go, may we remember that Thou seest us. With whatever fierce temptations Satan may beset us, may we fly to Thee for succor and deliv-

erance; and if he shall come to us as an angel of light, grant us Thy Holy Spirit, that we may not be ignorant of his devices. May we this week avoid all evil; may we do all the good we can to the bodies and souls of men; may we discharge every duty which Thou hast enjoined upon us, and in all things live as seeing Him who is invisible. O restrain us from the evils and follies into which we are prone to fall, and quicken us to the offices and duties which we are loth to perform.

Teach us, O Lord, to use this world as not abusing it, and so to enjoy the things that are in it that they may not engross our affections. Whatever we have of the world, O let it be sanctified to us by the word of God and prayer; and whatever we may want of the things of this life, leave us not destitute of the things which accompany salvation, but do Thou adorn our souls with all the graces of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may glorify Thee in all things, and that our conversation may be such as becometh the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And if it shall be Thy righteous will to remove us from earth this week, may we be found of our Lord, watching and faithful, and ready to give up our spirits with joy into the hands of our Redeemer.

And while we pray for ourselves, we humbly supplicate Thy blessings in behalf of all who praise and serve Thee. Strengthen them in Thy service, and let all the families and nations of the earth avoid all causes of strife, and live together in the peace of God and in the love of Jesus.

And now, Lord, condescend to us and hear us, and consider our meditation. Hear our voice early in the morning, and turn not away from our supplications. Tarry not, O Lord, but help us, as Thou hast in past times, and we will rejoice under the shadow of Thy wings. Our souls hang upon Thee. Thou upholdest us. O guide us by Thy counsel, and afterward receive us unto glory, through the merits of Thy Son, our adorable Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

ACTS X.

O GOD, Father of all mercies, King of kings, Lord of lords, how shall we presume to lift up our eyes to the place where Thou in glory dwellest! There is but one thing that preserves us from everlasting destruction, and that is Thy sovereign love in Jesus. We flee to Him as our only Saviour. We have no other. We require no other. He is our alone confidence. Spare us, good Lord, spare us, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Spare us for the sake of Thine own dear Son who hath served

Thee on our behalf, doing all and suffering all and procuring all for us. It is a glorious ground of confidence for a sinner to trust in. It has been tried by countless multitudes, and the blood that has cleansed their guilty stains has a voice of love and forgiveness for us.

Thou faintest not, neither art weary. We cannot be in better hands than in Thine. Whether it be to do or to bear Thy will, may it be ours meekly to say, "Even so, Father." Whatever may most conduce to Thy glory and our good, do Thou appoint for us. Be Thou ever near us, not as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night, but gladdening us with the continued sense of Thy presence and love. May we ever remember how transient and fleeting existence is; let us feel that the thread of life may snap at any moment. We cannot tell what a day or an hour may bring forth. May we work while it is called to-day, remembering that there is no device, nor work, nor labor in the grave whither we are going.

Bless all our dear friends; let them be related to Thee; preserve their bodies from danger and their souls from sin. May our household be a household of faith; may parents and children be the members of a more glorious household; may we claim kindred with the saints and the household of God.

Bless all in sorrow; let this be their comfort in affliction, "If we suffer with Him we shall be also glorified together." Let them look forward to that hour when "their sorrow shall be turned into joy,"

when God himself shall be with them and be their God, and when all tears shall be wiped from all faces. Prepare us all for heaven; let us be living ever with glory in sight, that ours at last may be an abundant entrance. Keep us waiting, keep us watching. Ere we lie down to sleep this night, give us the blessed sense of sin forgiven, and if spared until to-morrow, let us rise refreshed for duty and fitted for service or for trial. And all that we ask is for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always, and to whom, with Thee, the Father, and Thee, O blessed Spirit, be everlasting praise. Amen.

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## TUESDAY MORNING.

LUKE XVIII, 1—14.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, through whose goodness we are permitted to see the light of another day, grant us grace, we beseech Thee, to devote to Thy service the lives which Thou hast prolonged. We pray Thee to assist us in all the duties to which we may be called this day. Direct us to such occupations as are best suited to our circumstances and condition in life; and as we believe that Thou dost by Thy providence appoint us our work in this present world, we beseech Thee to enable us to be diligent and faithful in its performance. Pardon our sins. Grant us the continual assistance of Thy Holy Spirit. Make us cheerful

and contented with our lot. Deliver us from all overwhelming pressure of anxiety and care, and amid all our earthly employments keep us ever mindful of a better world.

We would remember that our life is as a shadow which soon passeth away, and that the trials which attend our mortal state will ere long come to an end. May we, therefore, study moderation in all our temporal enjoyments, and find comfort in Thy promises in all our troubles. Increase our faith in Him who came into the world to save sinners. Enable us to lay hold of the offers of the Gospel, and to derive our chief pleasure from the assurance of Thy favor here and the hope of everlasting life hereafter. Be pleased to make all things work together for our good, "not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses;" and thus, guided by Thy providence and sanctified by Thy Spirit, may we, at the last, attain the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.

We pray also for our relations and friends. Pardon, O Lord, their trespasses and sins. May they all be partakers of the promises of the Gospel; lead them in safety through the temptations and trials of life, and make them happy in themselves and blessings to all around them.

Have pity upon all who are distressed, whether "in mind, body or estate," "giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all afflictions." Send down Thine especial blessing upon the young; may all parents understand their

responsibilities; may it be their great aim to seek Thy favor for their children, and not the riches and honors of this perishing world, that thus there may never be wanting in this land a seed to serve Thee or a generation to praise Thy name.

We present before Thee, O merciful Father, these our imperfect prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

### COLOSSIANS II.

O GOD, we come into Thy blessed presence on this the evening of another day, thanking and praising Thee for all the tokens of Thy love and mercy. On Thee we are dependent for all the temporal bounties of our lot, and for all our higher and more enduring spiritual privileges. If we have been enabled this day to resist temptation and to fight against sin, it is all Thy blessed grace which has

enabled us to do so. Our hearts are ever dealing treacherously, both with ourselves and Thee. The good that we would, that we do not, and the evil that we would not, that we do. We are frequently contracting fresh guilt. Nothing but the merits of our blessed Redeemer can wash away sin. All our tears and repentance cannot do so. It is Jesus, and Jesus only, in all the fullness of His grace, in all the efficiency of His intercession, in all the glories of His finished work. Help us, Saviour, or we die! Sprinkle every heart with Thy blood. This alone will serve as a Passover in the great day of coming wrath.

While we look by faith to a completed atonement as the alone ground of our justification, we would look to Thy Holy Spirit to work in us all the good pleasure of Thy goodness. May He mould us after the Redeemer's image, and conform us to His will. May we be led to imitate the Saviour's meekness, gentleness and untiring benevolence. Give us fervent charity to all men, lofty integrity in our dealings, faithfulness to whatever trust Thy providence has confided to us. May we strive to be useful in our generation.

Have mercy on the sons and daughters of sorrow. Let them rest in Thy love. Let them see that they never could have known Thee unless Thou hadst tried them. Promote Thy cause and kingdom in the world. Pour out upon all thy ministers and missionaries and churches the healthful spirit of Thy grace. May the time soon come when, under one

Shepherd and one sheepfold, all ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God.

Bless our own immediate dwelling, and the circle of those nearest and dearest to us. O that as each evening comes round, we may feel that a day has been spent for Thee. May the thought be of a hallowed kind to us, that we shall soon end the journey and be with Thyself forever. Be with us throughout this night; may our bodies be refreshed with sleep; may we awake to the duties of another day with our minds stayed on God. And unto Thy great name we ascribe blessings, now and forever. Amen.

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## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PSALMS CXXXIII—IV.

O LORD, nothing befalls us but what is the dictate of infinite wisdom and everlasting love. The Highest of all Beings is the kindest of all. Our lives are one amazing retrospect of kindness, mercy upon mercy, and "there are no small mercies with Thee; all are great, because the least are undeserved."

We bless Thee for a full, free and everlasting salvation in Jesus. We come to Thee on the broad ground of Thine own offered welcome. May we be justified freely by His grace. Amid the fitfulness of our own ever-changing feelings, may we be able to make the challenge, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" May the common blessings of

life be hallowed by the sense of the mightiest of all blessings, that of being at peace with Thee in Him.

Distrusting our own strength and sufficiency, let us lean our whole weight upon His arm. May we have more of the feelings and tastes and habits of "pilgrims." May we desire a better country. May our habitual watchword be, "We are journeying." Let us not tamper with sin. May all that is pleasing to Thee be owned; may new-born principles ripen into holy tastes and permanent habits; may all anger and wrath, and malice and evil speaking, be put away from us. If tempted to uncharitable feelings, or the indulgence of unholy, unforgiving tempers, may we seek to set Jesus before us, and remember Him who was meek and lowly in heart. Thy presence hallows all joy, and sweetens all sorrow, and takes the sting from every thorn and every cross. Other friends have failed us; Thou hast never. Let us know that our happiest hours are those which are spent for Thee. If we have Thy favor and blessing we are independent of every other.

We pray for the afflicted. Be a Father to the fatherless, a husband to the widow, the stranger's shield and the orphan's stay. Let every heavy-laden one know that it is Thy gracious hand that puts the burden on and keeps it on. Give us all grace to be resigned to Thy will, sorrowing or rejoicing, in sickness, in health, in living or dying.

Do Thou sanctify our home. (May our children rise up and call Thee blessed; pour Thy rich grace early into their hearts; may they be led to remem-

ber their Creator in the days of their youth. May this be their highest blessedness, that they are the children of their Father in heaven.)

May we all feel that each of us have in our several spheres some work to perform for Thee. Let the solemn word of warning be ever sounding in our ears, "The night cometh, wherein no man can work." O may we be diligent, that we may at last be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless. And all that we ask is for the Redeemer's sake.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

JOHN XVIII.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, we draw near to Thy throne of grace through the blood and intercession of Thine own dear Son, to glorify Thee for the mercies of the past day, and to cast ourselves upon Thy kindness and care for the coming night. Ever blessed be Thy holy name that the Lord Jesus condescended, in the fullness of His zeal for Thy glory and His compassion for us, to undertake and accomplish the work of our redemption. We would

be humbled because of our sins, when we reflect upon the sufferings that Jesus endured for us. O grant that the Holy Spirit, whose office it is alone to take of the things of Christ and show them to Thy people, may fill our hearts with the love of Christ, that we may love Him who first loved us, who gave Himself for us, and now intercedes on our behalf at Thine own right hand. May we be able daily to carry about with us in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. May Christ live in us; may we live for Him and to His glory. Let the knowledge of His redemption spread in the world. Give success to all missionary efforts and the labors of Thy ministering servants, and may the time speedily come when all the ends of the earth shall turn unto the Lord, and all nations do Him homage. Bless us with grace throughout the coming night. As the sun has not smitten us by day, so neither let the moon by night. Refresh us with the rest of Thy beloved, and raise us up to the health and strength of a new day. And under the constant guidance of Thy supporting and sanctifying grace, may we be prepared to lie down in the grave in peace, and wake on the resurrection morn to the glories and blessedness of eternal life. All we ask is in and through the name of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

ROMANS VII.

O LORD, we desire to draw near unto Thy blessed presence on this the beginning of a new day. Do Thou accept of our morning sacrifice. Enkindle our souls with a live coal from the inner sanctuary. Throughout the day may our minds be stayed on Thee. May a sense of Thy favor and love be intermingled with all its duties, hallowing all its pleasures and softening all its trials; may we feel the happiness of holy living, and regard nothing this world can give as comparable for a moment to the enjoyment of Thy friendship and love. Blessed Saviour, nothing can give us peace but Thy peace. For every hour, for every moment, for every time of need, for every diversity of situation, Thou art. Undertake Thou for us; may we have no trust in anything but in Thy matchless work; may we have strength given us either to perform or endure Thy will. In all things may we seek to glorify Thy holy name; may no idol usurp Thy place in our souls; may we worship Thee only, Thee wholly, Thee forever. Arouse Thy churches to greater zeal in the promotion of Thy cause. We would pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers to His harvest.

O Lord, dwell in this family; hallow every heart in it as an altar to Thy praise; impress upon us all a family resemblance to the Great Elder Brother, our

living head in glory. Pour Thy grace into the young. Each of us is advancing in life's journey; may we seek to be becoming more and more meet for our everlasting home. Prepare us for the unutterable blessedness of close and uninterrupted fellowship with Thyself. Have compassion on all who are afflicted; pity the houseless poor, the orphaned children, the widowed heart. O Thou, who turnest the shadow of death into mourning, do Thou console and bind up every such bleeding bosom. May they rejoice that Thou, the Great Refiner, knowest all that is needed by Thy people. May they adore Thee, alike in the dispensing of Thy gifts and in removing the feeling that their times are in Thy hands. We commit ourselves to Thy care; may the Lord this day be to us a sun and shield; may He give grace and glory, and withhold from us nothing that He sees to be truly good. And all that we ask is for Jesus' sake.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

ROMANS VIII, 1—27.

GIVE ear to our words, O Lord; consider our meditations and enable us to approach Thee with becoming reverence. Thou inhabitest eternity, but our age is nothing before Thee. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look upon iniquity; but Thou hast called us to Thy footstool. Thou hast shown a new and living way by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We therefore draw nigh, in full assurance of faith, believing that we are as welcome as we are unworthy. O receive us graciously, adopt us into the household of faith, and say to our souls, I am thy salvation.

And, O Lord, we pray that we may grow in grace. If we have the reality of religion, how far are our works from being found perfect before God! Strengthen in us the things that remain, and help us to reach after the higher attainments and privileges of the divine life, and not always live at this poor dying rate. May we be followers of God as dear children. May Thine eye be more to us than the inspection of all fellow-creatures, and Thy approbation be dearer than the applause of a thousand worlds.

May no grace of the spirit be wanting in us; may no duty of our calling be neglected or carelessly performed; may our faith be a strong faith, our hope a lively hope, our charity a fervent charity,

our conversation a conversation becoming the Gospel of Christ; may we stand complete in all the will of God, and may our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father, who art in heaven.

May we long to serve our generation according to Thy will, and may all our works begin, continue and end in Thee. On Thee may we depend for light to know, and disposition to choose, and strength to perform, and submission to suffer, and patience to wait. And when we have done all, may we acknowledge that we are unprofitable servants, and confess that we deserve condemnation for the defects of our obedience, rather than a reward for its excellency; and looking off from our duties, as well as our sins, to find a foundation for our hope, may we rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Shelter us through the night, and in the morning, with renewed strength and grateful hearts, may we rise to love Thee more and serve Thee better than we have done this day. These mercies, and all other necessary blessings, we humbly ask in the name and through the merits of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## FRIDAY MORNING.

PSALM XXX.

HEAVENLY FATHER, we desire to lift up our hearts with our voices this morning, whilst we magnify and

extol Thy name together. Thou art infinitely exalted above our praises, as Thou art above our conceptions; but yet it is a good thing to show forth Thy loving kindness every morning and Thy faithfulness every night. We are Thine, O Lord, for Thou didst make us, and not we ourselves; we are Thy people, and the sheep of Thy pasture. The Lord is our Shepherd; we shall not want. Well may we say, Goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives.

We thank Thee for the bountiful provision which Thou hast made, not only for our temporal necessities, but for our temporal comforts. Thou openest Thy hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. But how much greater reason have we to thank Thee for the care Thou hast shown for our precious and immortal souls, and for the unsearchable riches of Thy goodness and mercy, in Christ Jesus our Lord! Hear, O heavens, and be astonished, O earth! God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life. O forbid that any of us should be of those who receive the grace of God in vain. May it be given to each one of us to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to the salvation of our souls. May we know experimentally that the Gospel is indeed the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; may we feel in our hearts its transforming power. Forbid that this world, or the things of this world, should ever again exercise an undue influence over

us, but may our hopes and affections be elevated above it. May we look forward to the rest in heaven which remaineth for the people of God.

We give Thee thanks for Thy kind care over us through the silent watches of the last night. We bless Thee for the health with which we have arisen, and for the comfortable circumstances in which we are here met. And now, O our God, we beseech Thee to be with us throughout the day; keep us from all evil, especially from all sin.

We commend to Thee all who are near and dear to us. Thou knowest all their wants; we beseech Thee to supply them out of Thine infinite fullness. If any of them, like lost sheep, have wandered away from the paths of truth and righteousness, O do Thou enable them to retrace their steps, and bring them home in safety to the Redeemer's fold. For them and for ourselves we supplicate Thy pardoning mercy; and when Thy purposes with us here below are finished, may we be admitted into those regions of blessedness, where love and happiness shall suffer no interruption forever.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

### JOHN X.

ALMIGHTY GOD and most merciful Father, in Thine abundant mercy Thou hast permitted us to draw near unto Thee, and promised to listen to the prayers which are offered up in the name of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who also has encouraged us to gather ourselves together in His name, with the assurance that He will not only be among us, but act as our Mediator and Advocate with Thee, the Father, that whatsoever we ask according to Thy will we may obtain it.

We are therefore emboldened, O our Father, to approach Thee with filial confidence, and to entreat Thee to lift up the light of Thy reconciled countenance upon us. Let our transgression be forgiven, and our sin covered. Accept, as a sufficient atonement for all our offenses, the sufferings and death of Him in whom alone Thou art ever well pleased, and through whom Thou canst not be offended with us. For His sake, O Lord, have mercy upon us, and forgive us all our iniquities. And though we are but worms and dust, yet Thou art our Creator, and we are the work of Thy hands. Yea, Thou art our Father, and we Thy children. Thou art our Shepherd, and we Thy flock. Thou art our Redeemer, and we Thy people whom Thou hast bought. Thou art our God, and we Thine inheritance. Rebuke us not, then, in Thine anger, O Lord; neither in Thy

hot displeasure chasten us according to our deserts; but if we must be corrected, let it be in mercy, and with a Father's tenderness.

We give Thee thanks, O Lord, for the temporal blessings with which Thou hast favored us, more especially for what of Thy goodness Thou hast caused to pass before us this day. We thank Thee that we went out and came in, in safety. And now we beseech Thee to follow with a blessing the labors in which we have severally been engaged, and do Thou so second our industrious exertions that we may have enough to supply all our wants, that we may not be burdensome to any, but rather helpful to others. But deliver us from those excessive cares of this world which would so engross our time and our thoughts that the one thing needful should be forgotten. May our desires after worldly possessions be moderated, by considering their uncertain nature; and while others are laying up treasures on earth, may we be rich towards God.

To the care and protection of Thy Almighty providence would we humbly commend ourselves this night. Take charge of us and ours. O Thou, Keeper of Israel, who never slumberest nor sleepest, watch over us for good. Let Thy mighty hand and outstretched arm, O Lord, be still our defense, Thy mercy and loving kindness in Jesus Christ our salvation, Thy true and holy word our instruction, Thy grace and Holy Spirit our consolation, now and for evermore. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

### PSALM CXXXV.

O LORD, how manifold are Thy mercies toward us! They are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness. Our lives, our health, our family comforts, our earthly enjoyments, are continued to us, and we are again permitted to approach Thy throne of grace. What shall we render unto Thee, O Lord, for these Thy benefits! Let our souls bless Thee; let all that is within us praise Thy holy name, who thus savest our lives from destruction, and crowned us with mercy and loving kindness.

We are ashamed for our vileness, and for our abuse of these Thy mercies. We have not rendered unto Thee according to Thy goodness. O Lord, pardon our iniquity. Look upon the face of Thine anointed. Remember His sufferings in our behalf. Show us Thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us Thy salvation. Give us pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve Thee with a quiet mind. Grant us the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without Thee, may by Thee be enabled to live according to Thy will. Make us humble and patient in our temper, upright and sincere in our dealings, and holy in all manner of conversation. Let us be active in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Help us to understand, and enable us to fulfill, the duties of our

respective callings and stations, that herein especially we may study to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, and show that we have not received His grace in vain.

We implore Thy Fatherly care and protection this day. Keep us, we pray Thee, both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls. Preserve us in the hour of temptation. Deliver us from the evils which we feel or fear. Let Thy grace in all things be sufficient for us

Be merciful to mankind in general, and shed abroad the light of Thy truth upon their hearts. Bless and defend Thy Church, and add to it daily such as shall be saved. Be gracious to our friends and relations. Look with compassion on the afflicted and distressed, and give them a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

Hear our supplications, O Lord, and accept our services, through the intercession of Thy Son, our Saviour, who has graciously taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

THE ACTS XVI, 25—40.

O GOD, what are we that we should be permitted to approach the presence of One so great and so glorious! We are apt to forget sin. We are too willing to hide it from Thee and hide it from ourselves, but we cannot evade Thy righteous judgment. We cannot screen our guilt from the great Heart-searcher. All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. But blessed be Thy name, we have "to do" with such a God as Thee. "Who is like unto Thee that pardoneth iniquity!" Sinners — guilty, tempest-tossed—seeking rest and finding none, we find it in the blood and work, and merits and righteousness of Thy dear Son. Casting our eternal all on Him, we can rejoicingly say, "Return unto Thy rest, O our souls, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with us." Bring us to live more constantly and habitually under the constraining influence of Redeeming love. May these souls of ours be wholly dedicated to Thy service. Let us not dream of reconciliation if we still cleave to sin. Let us not deceive ourselves with the form of godliness. Let us not rock ourselves asleep, saying, "Peace, peace, where there is no peace." May grace be waxing stronger and stronger, and sin waxing weaker and weaker. May the spirit of grace and peace and love "garrison" our hearts, and keep us from pride, the great

master-passion of our fallen and corrupted hearts; from vain glory and hypocrisy; from envious, uncharitable, unforgiving frames and tempers. O may we be preserved in body, soul and spirit, ready to be presented faultless at last before the presence of Thy glory with exceeding joy. Be Thou with us this night. Be the Guardian of our unconscious hours. Whether we wake or sleep, may we live together with Thee.

Thou hast brought us to the end of another week. We are on the eve of another Sabbath. O may we be nearer heaven, and better prepared for an everlasting season of communion with Thee. We would desire especially, as the week is closing, to remember before Thee all our beloved friends. God of all grace, dispense to them Thy richest blessings. Have mercy on all who are in affliction. O Thou Healer of the broken-hearted, Thou Helper of the helpless, may every wounded spirit be bound up by Thee.

And now, Lord, what wait we for? Our hope is in Thee. Our wishes, our desires, our interests, our joys, our sorrows, our friends, we leave entirely to Thy care and disposal. Prepare us for the solemn duties and services of another day of the Son of Man. Give to all of us a double portion of Thy Holy Spirit, that our souls may be fitted for holding nearer and more intimate fellowship with Thee. And all that we ask is for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## FIFTH WEEK.

### Sunday Morning.

Psalm XXIV.

O Lord, we thank Thee for our preservation through another night, and for the privilege of approaching Thee, this another Sabbath morning, in prayer. We come humbly entreating Thy blessings. When we consider Thy majesty and purity, and reflect upon our guilt, how shall we come before the Lord or bow before the Most High? We are unworthy. We have sinned and done wickedly. Have mercy upon us, O God, have mercy upon us and forgive us! We come in the name of Jesus, our merciful and faithful High Priest. May we be justified by His blood, and have access into that grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. We know not when we leave our apartments what this day may bring forth. We know that we are to go out into a wicked world, and that we carry with us evil hearts. We know that without Thee we can do nothing that is good. We are ignorant, we are weak. We beseech Thee go Thou with us this day, and be our wisdom and our strength. Show us the way wherein we should go, and help us to walk joyously in that way. Keep us in all our ways. Behold us by Thine all-powerful and all-

loving hand, and may no sin have dominion over us. May we abstain from the appearance of evil. Aid us by Thy Spirit, that we may be impressive in our lives by our consistency and attractive by our amiableness. May we think upon and pursue whatever things are lovely and of good report. Make us a blessing to those among whom we shall move. In our tempers and words and actions, may we show to the world that we are the Lord's. By Thy grace, good Lord, fit us for every changing scene. In all the trials of life, may our minds be stayed upon God and our thoughts be established. Help us to remember that trials from Thy hands are blessings in disguise. May we through life's whole pilgrimage walk by faith, and not by sight, and in every step we take, O assist us, that by faith we may cling to the precious promise, that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. Grant us grace to love Thee supremely. May Thy will be ours in all things at all times. Bless Thy Church. Bless the world. O hasten the happy day when all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Remember all who are in affliction. Comfort those who are on beds of languishing. Be Thou in the house of mourning. Be the Father of the fatherless, and the husband of the widow, and the help of the poor and needy.

Hear us, O our merciful Father, in our prayers this morning. Guide us through life's toilsome pilgrimage. When we lie down to die, may our heads be sweetly pillowed upon the supports of Thy word,

and finally may we have a home in the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

MATTHEW XVI.

PRAISE waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion, and unto Thee shall the vow be performed. O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.

We come anew, on this the evening of Thy holy day, acknowledging our great unworthiness. Fill us with a deep sense of our guilt. We are apt to ourselves, if not to Thee, to plead vain excuses for our sins. Let us know more and more the preciousness of the faithful saying, that "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." May we live at all times as Thy redeemed children. As He that hath called us is holy, so may we be holy in all manner of conversation. Put Thy fear in our hearts, not the fear of torment, but the holy child-like fear of offending so kind a Father, so gracious and forgiving a Saviour. Blessed Lord, make these unworthy hearts of ours living temples. May our lives be one continued

thank-offering for Thine amazing mercies. As Thy blood-bought children, may we count it our highest privilege, as well as our sacred duty, to walk so as to please Thee. Keep us from inactivity and sloth. Let our loins be girded and our lamps burning; let us be growing in faith and love, in charity and meekness, in diligence and faithfulness, rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. Revive Thy work in the midst of the years; in the midst of wrath do Thou remember mercy. We pray for all in affliction. O Thou who art the Healer of the broken-hearted, the Comforter of all that are cast down, do Thou impart to every sorrowing, bereaved spirit Thine own everlasting consolations. We commend our family and household to Thy care. Be Thou the covenant God of all near and dear to us. Whether they be now present or absent, may they all be near and dear to Thee.

Take us all under Thy providence this night. Let us fall asleep under Thy blessed protection; may no unquiet dreams disturb our repose, and when the gates of the morning are again opened, may it be to hear Thy benediction and blessing, "Fear not, for I am with Thee." And all that we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

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## MONDAY MORNING.

### PSALM CXV.

O LORD, through the tender mercy of our God the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give

light unto us who sat in darkness, and in the region and shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace. Thou hast brought near Thy righteousness, and revealed unto us the abundance of grace and truth. Thou art inviting and beseeching us all, unworthy as we are, to receive the atonement, to be reconciled unto Thee through the death of Thy Son, to be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation. What manner of persons ought we to be in fervent gratitude, in deep humility, in holy conversation and godliness! But we have turned to our farms and our merchandise, our studies and amusements, and neglected the things that belong to our everlasting peace. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Blot out, we beseech Thee, all our transgressions. Revive and quicken us, for Thine own name's sake. Rescue us from the spiritual poverty, degradation and misery in which we are involved. Bring us into the glorious liberty of Thy children. O let Thy Holy Spirit be upon us, that we may confide in His love, that we may rejoice in His salvation, that we may grow in conformity to His image, and that we may seek the good of His Church always.

We bless Thee, O Lord, for Thy protecting care and Thine unwearied goodness. Thou hast made our cup run over; Thou hast punished us far less than our sins deserve; in wrath Thou hast remembered mercy. May our comforts be blessed, our trials sanctified, and our brotherly love increased. Be very gracious to all who are dear to us; if they

be in danger, do Thou protect them; if they be in sorrow, do Thou comfort them; if they be exposed to temptation, do Thou keep them from falling, and if they be still in their sins, do Thou save them by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost. Give food to the hungry, and raise up all that are bowed down. And unto Thee be ascribed all glory and power, forever and ever.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

### 2 JOHN.

O LORD, we bless Thee that we are again permitted, in the multitude of Thy mercies, to see the close of another day. Make not our pillow this night the pillow of death. Give Thine angels charge over us during the unconscious hours of sleep, and when we awake may we be still with Thee.

We desire to take Thee as our chief joy; we cast our every care upon Thee; Thou carest for us; Thou caredst for us before we cared for ourselves; our lives are one continuous history of undeserved watchfulness in the past. And we will trust Thee in

the future. In all our ways we would acknowledge Thee; do Thou direct our paths. Let our one animating wish and longing be to be nearer Thee now, and with Thee forever in heaven. May every returning night, as it finds us nearer the morning of glory, find us better prepared for it.

We desire this night to lie down in peace and sleep, with our eye on the opened fountain. Wash out all the defilements of the day. He is able to save, He is willing to save, He is waiting to save. We have no other refuge but Him, no other friend like Him.

We commend to Thy gracious care and providence our family and household. May each be a member of the household of faith. Do Thou, if it be Thy will, long continue unbroken our home circle on earth, but let our true home be above. Let the watchword of each near and dear to us be this: "We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord hath said, I will give it you." Bless the young; train them early for glory. Preserve them from the countless temptations of a world lying in wickedness. We pray for the afflicted; we commend them to Him who knows their frame, and who, having suffered, being tempted, is able to succor them that are tempted.

Let Thy kingdom come. Stand by Thy missionary servants; may they have many heathen souls for their hire, many who shall be to them as a crown of joy and rejoicing on the great day.

Lord, we commend ourselves to Thee; known

unto Thee are all our wants; we leave our petitions at the footstool of Thy throne, knowing that in Thee we have a rich Provider; and when the provisions of the earthly journey are needed no more, may it be ours to feed on the better bread which endureth to everlasting life. And all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always, and to whom, with Thee, O Eternal Spirit, be ascribed all blessing, world without end. Amen.

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## TUESDAY MORNING.

PSALM CIII.

ALMIGHTY GOD, during the past night we have rested securely upon our beds, guarded and protected by Thy vigilant care. We hail the light of this day as a gift from Thee; and as we remember Thy kindness shown in our preservation through the night-watches, and call to mind Thy promise to sustain us amid the trials of the day, we call upon our souls to bless the Lord, and all that is within us to praise His holy name. We bless Thee for our lives, our health, our intelligence, our temporal advantages, and our religious privileges. We thank Thee for the blessed experiences of Thy presence and love in the past, and for Thy promised blessing in the future. But especially do we adore the mercy Thou hast manifested towards us in the gift of our precious Redeemer. We would glory in His Cross, and be-

come crucified unto the world by Him. Bending before the Cross where Jesus was slain, we would recognize His death as the crowning blessing of all Thou hast bestowed upon sinful men.

We thank Thee for the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, presiding over our destinies, stimulating us to activity, directing us amid the perplexities of life, and bearing witness with our spirits that we are children of God. May that blessed Spirit enlighten our minds, purify our desires, ennoble our aims, and guide us into all truth, being to us a Comforter in time of trouble and a Supporter in the hour of death.

But our devotions, O God, must be mingled with contrite confession. We acknowledge our offenses, we confess our guilt. Thy law have we violated; Thy mercy have we despised; Thy reproofs have we scorned; the blood of Thy Son have we trampled under foot. But our hearts are filled with sorrow for these misdeeds. We come humbly to Thee, confessing our sins and devoutly praying Thy forgiveness, relying upon the mediation and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us a spirit of gratitude, we beseech Thee, that will prompt us hereafter to forsake the paths of sin and follow the meek and holy Jesus.

Our Father, we invoke Thy choicest blessings upon our friends everywhere. Bless our relations, both present and absent; bless our neighbors, and grant, in the fullness of Thy mercy, that Thy kingdom may be established in this community, and that righteousness may flourish.

Dear Lord, bless our enemies also. If we have

wronged them, give us the candor to see our own fault, and the grace to confess and forsake it. If they alone are in error, help them to cease to do evil, and do Thou so move upon our hearts, that we may be always ready to forgive the offense and love the penitent offender.

Now we commit ourselves to Thee for the day upon which we have just entered. Under Thy guidance may we walk its paths; in its temptations may we take refuge in Thy bosom. From its perils may we be delivered by Thy protecting love. Whatever business we transact, may it be in Thy fear. If any new and sudden temptation beset us, arm us to meet it and achieve a victory for Jesus. When the day shall close, our Heavenly Father, may we lie down under Thy watchful eye, and sleep the sleep of innocence in Christ.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

MATTHEW XII, 1—21.

O LORD, help us to approach Thee with reverence and godly fear. We are lost in wonder when we

reflect upon Thy greatness and majesty, and still more so when we reflect upon Thy goodness and mercy. Lord, what is man, that Thou shouldst be mindful of him, or the son of man, that Thou shouldst visit him? Yet hast Thou been mindful of us in a wonderful manner, and hast most graciously visited us in our helpless, lost and ruined state. Thou hast given Thy only begotten and well-beloved Son to be a ransom for our sins; to suffer death upon the cross, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us unto Thee. Quicken us from our spiritual drowsiness and insensibility. Give us a more lively sense of Thy mercies, and hearts more grateful to Thee for them.

We confess with shame that we are too much attached to things below; that earthly trifles so engage us as to rob our souls of much spiritual comfort. O let Thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily deliver us. Grant, O merciful God, that the old Adam in each of us may be so buried that the new man may be raised up in us. Grant that we may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph against the devil, the world and the flesh. May we not be of the number of those who walk in darkness and only mind earthly things, but may we live as those whose conversation is in heaven, and who seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at Thy right hand.

Be pleased graciously to accept our thanks for the continuance of Thy kindness through another day. Take us, merciful Father, under Thy care this

night. Pardon the sins of this day and of our whole lives. Spread now Thy wing over us. Remember, in Thy kindness and mercy, all for whom we ought to pray. Bless all Thy ministers, wherever they are employed in Thy vineyard. Water them abundantly with the dew of Thy Holy Spirit. Deliver them from the fear of man, from seeking the applause of men, and from preaching themselves, or anything else, instead of Christ crucified. Build up the walls of Zion, and strengthen them, that the gates of hell may not prevail against them.

Pity the sick and afflicted; relieve the destitute; be the Father of the fatherless, and the God of the widow; and do for us, and all for whom we should pray, exceeding abundantly, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

JOHN VIII, 31—59.

WE bow our knees this morning unto the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, for unto Thee, O Lord, every knee should bow and every tongue confess. We feel that it becomes us to stand in awe of Thy majesty, for we are sinful dust and ashes; but we rejoice that we are warranted at the same time to confide in Thy mercy, for this has been Thy name and Thy memorial in all generations.

Thou hast set forth Thine own Son to be a propitiation for our sins, and hast raised Him from the dead and exalted Him to glory. Him Thou hearest always, and Thou hast been pleased to declare Thy willingness to receive graciously all who come unto Thee by Him. We desire to acknowledge Thee as the giver of everything that contributes to our domestic comfort and happiness. In looking forward to the duties of this day, we humbly plead that sufficient grace may be bestowed to enable us to discharge them faithfully and fully. May we be shielded by Thy providence from danger, and restrained by Thy grace from sin. Be Thou our strong habitation, whereunto we may continually resort. May we walk in the light of Thy countenance, and in Thy name may we rejoice all the day. Great are Thy tender mercies, O Lord; we therefore beseech Thee to maintain the cause of the afflicted and the right of the poor. Relieve the fatherless and widow; give food to the hungry; raise those that are bowed down, and heal the broken in heart. May the Lord fulfill the desires we have now so imperfectly expressed, and do better for us all than we are able to ask, for the sake of His Son, our Saviour.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine

is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

JOHN XII.

O GOD, we bless Thee for Thy great mercy, that we are again permitted to approach the throne of the heavenly grace. Many have been summoned this day into eternity. We have been spared. The curtains of night have again fallen around us in peace. We come to Thee, casting our sins on His righteousness. Wash every guilty stain away. Forgive our sins of omission and sins of commission. May the Angel be caused to fly swiftly and touch us in this the time of our evening devotion. One day's transgressions are enough to condemn us. There is nothing but the sacrifice and continual intercession of our Great High Priest between us and everlasting destruction. It is His free and all-powerful grace alone that from hour to hour averts from us temptations which we could have no strength in ourselves to resist. O God, in mercy, deny us not this grace of Thine! May we ourselves be sober and vigilant, ever on the watch-tower, guarding every approach most open to the assaults of our great enemy. In all time of our tribulation, in all time of our wealth, in the hour of death, and at the day of judgment, deliver us.

Instruct the ignorant; reclaim the wanderer; save the obdurate and impenitent. O convince them, ere

it be too late, that there is no loss comparable to the loss of the soul—to be left godless and hopeless and portionless forever. Point them to the Lamb of God; cleanse them in the atoning blood; make them the monuments of thine adorable mercy. Look down in kindness on all who are in affliction. Draw near to those who may be bereaved of near and dear friends; may they know that he is faithful that promised, "I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee." Bless all our beloved friends; write their names in the Lamb's Book of Life; may the pillar of Thy presence go before them; may it never leave them till it leaves them in glory. Bless our own family; (bless the children; may they all be taught of the Lord, and great shall be their peace.) May Thy wings overshadow us during the silent watches of the night, and when we awake may we awake to praise Thee, and to use the powers and the talents committed to us to Thy glory. And all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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## THURSDAY MORNING.

LUKE XII, 1—32.

O LORD, Thou art a spirit, and no man hath seen Thee at any time. Thou goest by and we see Thee not, Thou passest on also and we perceive Thee not, yet art Thou nigh to every one of us, for in Thee we

live and move and have our being. Thou hast preserved us through the silent watches, and brought us unto the light of a new day. We would this day acknowledge Thee our Creator, Preserver and Redeemer. From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God, but all flesh is as grass; we all do fade as the leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away. Who can say, I have made my heart clean; I am pure from my sin? Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord pondereth the hearts. There is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not. We bless Thee that Thou hast laid our help upon One that is mighty to save. As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. O Lord, let Thy Holy Spirit take of the things that are of Christ, and show them to us, that we may know our need of a Saviour, and flee for refuge to the hope set before us in the Gospel. Create in us, O God, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Sanctify us through Thy truth, that, dying daily unto sin and living unto righteousness, we may grow daily in conformity to Thy will, and be prepared to meet our God.

Follow with Thy blessing our reading of Thy word and our meditations at this time. Do Thou grant us in this and every season of grace refreshing from Thy presence. Lord, dwell in this house and family. Never leave us and never forsake us. In our several places, duties and relations, may we all have a single eye to Thy service, and do all things to Thy glory. Shed abroad Thy love in our hearts, that we may

love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul, and mind and strength; that as Thou hast loved us, we may love one another with pure hearts fervently; that we may bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts find acceptance with Thee, through Christ, our strength and our Redeemer.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

JOHN VII, 1—31.

O GOD, be Thou present with us now, and enable us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Give us, we beseech Thee, the comfortable assurance that our sins are forgiven. Let Thy Spirit bear witness with our spirits that we are children of God. Impart to us the gift of Thy Spirit, that we may bring forth love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, meekness, long-suffering, forbearance and temperance. Teach us so to live that we may glorify Thee, who hast bought us with a price of such amazing value as the blood of Thine own Son. O that all now

kneeling together may indeed obtain mercy in Christ Jesus. Shed abroad Thy love, Lord, in our hearts, and may we be taught of Thee to love one another.

Bless, we beseech Thee, all that are near and dear to us. Many beloved relatives and friends are now absent from us, but Thou art with them, and all their wants are known to Thee. Give them Thy grace, guide them by Thy counsel, and may none of them be wanting in Thy heavenly kingdom. We pray for all in authority. Lord, may their counsels be so ordered by Thee as may be most for the good of our country. Give, we beseech Thee, to all the ministers of Jesus Christ, everywhere, true knowledge and understanding of Thy word, and may they set it forth in their lives accordingly. Make them wise to win souls. Lord, call forth and send out many faithful laborers to the work of the ministry. Bless every society established for benefiting the bodies or the souls of men.

Thanks be unto Thee for all Thy goodness towards us. How multiplied are Thy mercies every day! How excellent is Thy loving kindness. We bless Thee for all Thy long-suffering and forbearance towards us. We bless Thee for the infinite mercies of redeeming love. We bless Thee for the knowledge of Thy salvation, and for the light of Thy truth, for protection from every danger during the night, and provision for all our wants by day. Thou hast spread our table with food, and Thou givest us every needful good. Accept these our prayers and

our praises, which we offer up in and through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator. Amen.

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## FRIDAY MORNING.

I. PETER II, 7—18.

O LORD, Thou art from everlasting to everlasting God. We bless Thee for the Son of Thy love. We cannot wonder at any other mercy when Thou hast given us Him. We stake our eternal all on Him. Reposing on His completed work, we can joyously say, "Return unto Thy rest, O our souls, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with us." Let us enter into this rest. Let us feel that time is too short, and eternity too long, to be tampering with our salvation. May every other question of mere earthly interest be subordinated to this, "What must we do to be saved?" May we know that Jesus is in every respect the Saviour we need, that there is no friend so willing to be all and to do all for us. May the same mind be in us which was also in Him. Let us know the blessedness of living with Him in holy fellowship, living from day to day upon Him with unfaltering dependence, and to Him in undivided consecration of every power of our bodies and every faculty of our souls. May we search out the plague of our own hearts. May whatever pleases Him please us. May we find all our happiness in the inquiry, "What the will of the Lord is," and know-

ing it, to pursue prayerfully and joyfully our heavenward way.

Bless all in sorrow. Descend, Lord, to heal their wounds. May they bow with humble submission to Thy will and say, "It is good for us that we have been so afflicted." May those laid on beds of languishing exhibit patience under bodily pain and infirmity. May useful lives be spared, and the dying be prepared for death.

Bless this family and household; may we all know the happiness of present and everlasting shelter in the Shepherd's fold. May the lambs of the flock be taken in His arms and carried in His bosom. Hasten the promised times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. May Jesus take to Himself His great power and reign. Arise, O God, and let Thine enemies be scattered.

Take us this day under Thy peculiar care. Bless and keep us. Cause Thy face to shine on us. Fit us for life and for death and for glory, for Jesus' sake.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

MARK X, 28—52.

O LORD, Thou art the hearer of prayer, and unto Thee shall all flesh come. Blessed be Thy name for the freedom of access we enjoy to Thy throne of grace, and for the sure promise we have received, that whatsoever things we shall ask in Christ's name, believing, we shall receive. Help us to ask in faith, believing that Thou art, and that Thou art the Rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee.. O Lord, do Thou impress our minds with a deep and abiding sense of the preciousness of Christ. May we account all other things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of the Saviour; may we feel that all other things are less than nothing and vanity, compared with winning Christ, and being found in Him. Under this conviction may we be ready to follow Him through good report and through evil; to take up our cross, to deny ourselves and to go after Jesus; and grant that we may be daily growing up into Him in all things. May we take His yoke upon us, and learn of Him who was meek and lowly of heart. Forbid that we should think that we are already perfect. This one thing may we do, forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, may we be ever pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Truly we are unprofitable servants. We have done the things

we ought not to have done; we have neglected those things it was our duty to do. Good Lord, sanctify to us all the trials and vicissitudes of our earthly pilgrimage. When oppressed at any time with afflictions, may we learn to look unto Christ, who endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens. And grant, Heavenly Father, that we may be apt to learn those lessons of heavenly wisdom which the dispensation of Thy providence towards us may be fitted and designed to teach. May we walk before Thee as children of the light and of the day, committing our way unto the Lord. In Thy light may we see light clearly, and rejoice in the hope of Thy glory. Forgive, O Lord, the sins of this day and of all our days. We thank Thee for the goodness and mercy Thou art still making to follow us. May we lie down this evening and take quiet rest; may no plague come nigh our dwelling, and at whatever time we awake may we be still with Thee. Let Thy mercy be still on us, as we hope in Thee. And to Thy name in Christ Jesus shall be everlasting praise. Amen.

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## SATURDAY MORNING.

### PSALM XXXIX.

O God, we desire to come into Thy blessed presence on this the morning of a new day, adoring

Thee for all Thy mercies. Last night we might have slept the sleep of death; we might have been startled by the midnight cry, "Prepare to meet Thy God!" But Thy love and forbearance again permit us to meet on praying ground.

Lord, we look back with amazement at Thy patience. Mercies have been abused, providences slighted, warnings neglected. But Thou art not willing to leave us. Thou art still opening up a way for the return of Thy prodigal and wayward children. We have still the richest encouragement to repair to the opened fountain. Jesus still waits; His blood still cleanses; His spirit still pleads. The faithful saying is as faithful as ever, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." We desire to receive this new day as a fresh gift from Thee. Let Thine approval form throughout it a holy incentive to every duty. Let us feel that we never can be happy but when pleasing Thee. Lord, it is Thy will and desire that every moment we should be reaping glory for Thee. We look to Thy grace to enable us thus to will and to do. Strengthen us with all might by Thy Spirit in the inner man. How slow we are to believe that our truest security is leaning confidingly on Thine arm! Thou art faithful that promised—Thou art more faithful—Thou art better than Thy word. Thy name is the God of all grace; Thou givest all sufficiency in all things. The cup runneth over that is filled by Thee, and nothing can come wrong to us that comes from Thy hand.

Bless all near and dear to us; all that is truly good for them in this life do Thou bestow, and, what is better, do Thou give them the heritage of glory. May our children be the children of the covenant; may they grow up as willows by the water-courses, and be a seed to serve Thee when we are gathered to our fathers.

Take us all, young and old, this day under Thy protection. God of all mercy, spread Thy covering wings around us. Be our God and Guide even unto death, and finally bring us to Thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits of Thy dear Son, our only Lord and Saviour.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

### II. THESSALONIANS III.

O GOD, do Thou bow Thine ear, as on this the close of another day. Long ere now might Thou have turned away Thy face from us and our prayers from Thee. What sinning against privilege, slighting warning, grieving Thy Spirit! And yet for all this Thy hand of mercy is stretched out still.

Lord, we desire to remember how it is we are thus preserved. It is all in the Son of Thy love; for His work's sake. But for Him this must have been our awful history, "Without God, without hope." We plead anew His finished atonement; it is all we require, living or dying. We would glory in nothing but His cross. Give us to know the blessedness of the words, "No condemnation." Let us not rest until, with appropriating faith, we can say, "We know whom we have believed, and we are persuaded He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him." "He loved us, and gave Himself for us." May Thy Holy Spirit take of the things that are Christ's, and show them unto our souls. May He touch our hearts as with a live coal from off Thy holy altar; may He sanctify us, body, soul and spirit. If led often to mourn over our dullness and coldness and lukewarmness here, may it be ours to look forward to that coming day of glory when every thought and every desire will be in perfect unison with the mind of the adorable God—when there shall be nothing to mar the joy of entire and undivided consecration to Thy service.

Bless our beloved friends, both near and at a distance; may they all be equally near to Thee. May each of us feel that the great and all-important secret of existence is to be living in constant and habitual preparation for eternity. Let us cast anchor now within the veil, that we may not know what it is at the hour of death to be left to the mercy of the storm.

Pity a careless, ungodly world; arrest the spread of impiety; establish the reign of purity and righteousness; break down intemperance. Give us grace to be faithful among the faithless, resolving that whatever others do, as for us, we will serve the Lord.

Be with us this night. Watch over us as we sleep. May night after night of calm and refreshing slumber be to us the emblem of that better rest above, when in perfect security we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Prepare us for the solemn services of Thy holy day. May each recurring Sabbath, as it finds us farther on in our pilgrimage, find us nearer glory. And all that we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

# PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

## Sacramental Sunday Morning.

O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. We come before Thee in the morning of this Thy holy day, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Saviour and Intercessor. We make mention of His righteousness, and of His alone, for our hope of acceptance with Thee; and pleading His perfect righteousness, may we have boldness to come to the throne of grace and obtain mercy.

We adore Thee, great God, as the Author of our being and as the Giver of every good and perfect gift, as our Preserver, Benefactor and Redeemer. We thank Thee for all the temporal mercies bestowed upon us, for food, raiment, habitation and friends, and for our continued good health of body and mind. We thank Thee, too, for spiritual blessings; for these holy Sabbaths, with their stillness and solemnity; for our exemption from the ordinary cares and avocations of life; for rest to our bodies and soul; for all the spiritual advantages connected with their proper observance, and for all the benefits we have derived from them, imperfect as our observance has been. We bless Thee for the privilege of prayer, that we are permitted to pray, and that

we are invited and encouraged to hold communion with Thee, the Father of our spirits in all our joys and sorrows, and to cast our burden on the Lord, who will sustain us and comfort us. We bless Thee for an open Bible, that we may freely use, and when and where we please; that therein Thou hast shown us the purposes of Thy love to our guilty race; given us doctrines to believe, precepts to obey, taught us Thy will concerning our salvation, and held up before us the story of the Cross, and of Him who died upon it for man's redemption. We bless Thee for a preached Gospel, for liberty of conscience, and the privilege of worshiping Thee according to its dictates. We bless Thee for the gift of the Holy Spirit; that He has come "to convince of sin, of righteousness and of judgment;" to enlighten our minds in the knowledge of the truth; to show us that we are by nature guilty, polluted sinners, and that as such we deserve Thy wrath, and that He has come to "take of the things of Christ and show them unto us," to reveal Christ as the only and all-sufficient Saviour, and to enable and persuade us to embrace Him as He is freely offered to us "in the Gospel." For all these rich and inestimable blessings we call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to praise Thee, to whom alone we are indebted for them. Thus Thou hast us under a debt of love and gratitude we can never repay; and as gratitude is the only return we can make for all Thy favors, may that gratitude be evinced by lives of entire consecration to Thy service. Lord, we are Thine by

every claim that one being can have on another. We are Thine by creative power, Thine by preserving care, and Thine by redeeming love. Under a sense of these claims, and constrained by Thy mercies, we now present our bodies before Thee, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service.

But who are we, O Lord, that Thou shouldst bestow such blessings upon us? We have not deserved anything at Thy hands. We have no claims upon Thee for the least favor. We have no righteousness to recommend us to Thee. No; we are sinners. But, O God of grace, as Thou hast no pleasure in the death of the sinner, "there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayst be feared." "Have mercy upon us, then, O Lord; according to the magnitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out all our sins." Wash us in that atoning blood that has been shed; cover us with the righteousness of Jesus Christ as with a robe of praise, a mantle of salvation, and so cover us with it that when the Eye of infinite purity shall rest on us Thou shalt be satisfied. Bury our sins in the sea, the emblem of Thine own fathomless mercy. Grant us the indwelling of Thy good and free Spirit, sanctify us by His heavenly influence, and receive us graciously and love us freely.

And now, O Lord, bless us in the solemn services of this day, in singing Thy praise, in supplicating Thy mercy-seat, in rendering our thanksgivings. Bless us in the reading and hearing Thy holy word,

and open our hearts to receive the truth of Thy preached Gospel. Give the listening ear, the understanding heart, and the applying conscience. May Thy word and ordinances do Thy people good, as they do to those who are upright in heart, in building them up in their most holy faith, and in strengthening them for every good work. Bless Thy Gospel to all who shall hear it; to the weak, that they may be made strong; to the wavering, that they may become steadfast; to the lost, that they may be reclaimed; to the sorrowing, that they may be comforted. And O bring sinners to repentance; even "those that are far off bring nigh by the blood of Christ," and glorify Thy grace in their salvation. Send out Thy light and truth everywhere. "Let Zion arise, her light being come." May "she lengthen her cord and strengthen her stake," and many be gathered under her pavilion. Father, bless Thy ministering servants; clothe them with salvation, and make them the honored instruments of turning many to Christ. Bless the provision of Thy house to the spiritual nourishment of Thy people, and add to their numbers daily of such as shall be saved.

In a special manner, we beseech Thee, O Father, to bless Thy dear children who shall gather around the table of their Lord this day to commemorate His dying love. Fill their hearts with the love of the Spirit, and replenish them with large supplies of grace. May they come with a simple, child-like faith in Jesus as their atoning sacrifice; may their

hearts be filled with love to Him, their unseen Saviour; may they hold sweet communion with Him, and with Thee, O Father, and with the blessed Spirit, and with one another. And while their Master, at the head of the feast, shall say, "Eat, O friends; drink—yea, drink abundantly, O beloved," may His banner over us be Love.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SACRAMENTAL SUNDAY EVENING.

JOHN XIII.

MOST gracious God, who hast in Thy good providence brought us to the close of another Sabbath, we entreat Thee to accept of our unfeigned thanks for all the loving kindness and tender mercy Thou hast made this day to pass before us. We bless Thee for all that our eyes have seen and our hands have handled of the word of life. Do Thou wash us after supper. May the benediction and blessing of the Master of the feast rest upon us. May we rejoice in the presence and love of Him who brought us into His own banqueting house, and caused His banner over us to be love. Gracious God, give us

grace to pay the vows which our lips have this day uttered; fulfill in us all the good pleasure of Thy goodness, and the work of faith with power, that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ may be magnified. As we have named His precious name anew, may we henceforth depart from all iniquity. May a Communion Sabbath's services diffuse a hallowed glow over all the duties and engagements of the week; may we show to the world that we have "been with Jesus," and that it has been no vain thing for us to draw near unto God. Preserve us from wandering on debatable ground; may we ever be where we should wish to be found by our Lord when He cometh.

We pray for those who may have joined with us this day in the same solemn and sacred ordinance. We commend each and all to the great Shepherd of the sheep, who, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, will make them perfect to do His will. Regard in Thy great mercy any who may have been prevented from waiting upon Thee in Thy house. Compensate by an increased supply of Thine own promised grace for the want of public services. Transform every sick-chamber and every death-bed into the house of God and the gate of heaven. May valuable lives be prolonged; may the bereaved be comforted; may they repose their bleeding bosoms on Him who bares and knows their sorrows.

Take the charge of us this night; watch over us during the unconscious hours of sleep; may we all come at last to the eternal blessedness of an unin-

terrupted Communion Sabbath in glory, around which no shadows shall fall; for there shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever. Amen.

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## FOR OPENING DIVINE SERVICE SUNDAY.

O LORD, our Father and our God, Thou dwellest in light and glory unapproachable, but Thou art infinite in condescension, and Thy Majesty reveals itself not in its distance from us, but in its nearness to our hearts. Day unto day, night unto night, season unto season, year unto year, all utter speech and show knowledge of Thee, for all these are Thy servants, waiting upon Thee, and fulfilling Thy beneficent will in the large outgoings of Thy mercy toward the children of men. Six days hast Thou given us for labor, that we may do all our work and glorify Thee in the toil of our hands; and as Thou dost crown the year with Thy goodness, so Thou dost crown the week with Thy blessedness in the Sabbath that brings us rest from our burdens and peace in the midst of strife. We thank Thee, our Heavenly Father, that Thou hast made us capable of enjoying Thee in the services of Thy holy day. If Thy Spirit help our infirmities, we may enter into Thy gates with thanksgiving, and into Thy courts with praise. May we this day serve the Lord with

gladness; may we be thankful unto Him and bless His name; may we remember that the Lord is merciful, and that His truth endureth to all generations, and may His goodness lead us to repentance, and draw us unto Him who taketh away the sin of the world. For the sake of Thy blessed Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, sanctify this day as Thy day to our hearts; sanctify it to thoughtfulness and earnest consideration; sanctify it to warning and entreaty; let Thy word have free course, and be glorified as the word of Thy grace that bringeth good tidings and accomplisheth the end whereunto Thou hast sent it.

Blessed be Thy name that on this day we are permitted to have fellowship one with another in the unity of the Spirit and in the bonds of peace. Bind us in closer sympathy to each other, and make us more patient and forbearing, and fill us with the charity that suffereth long, yet is kind. Rich and poor meet together, but Thou art the Maker and Redeemer of all. May we be one in Christ Jesus, and in His spirit may we bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill His law. Teach us how to help one another, and let our life ever be a ministry of thought and love and tenderness to others, so that, as the elect of God, we may let our light shine in the office of kindness, and by fervor of spirit, by constancy of self-denial, and by fidelity in every duty, glorify our Father in heaven. Unite all Thy people in Thee. Let envy, discord and strife be put away from among them, that they all may be co-workers

in building up Thy promised kingdom, and establishing the reign of Thy Son as the Sovereign of all nations. Impress deeply upon us our duties to mankind. The salvation of the world is precious in Thy sight, and may we feel it, pray for it, labor for it, as for our own deliverance from evil. O let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end. Father of mercies, look upon Thy Son's inheritance, look upon the waste places and the habitations of cruelty, and see how powerless are we to arrest the devastations of iniquity. Vain is the strength of man, vain the strength of governments and laws and social institutions, unless Thou givest power and blessing. In these sad days, arise in Thy love and majesty, and help Thy sorrowing and stricken Church, and may we be still and know that Thou art God.

O Thou that hearest prayer, hear us when we pray that all flesh may come unto Thee. Bless all efforts to enlighten, reform and purify the human race, all schools and colleges, asylums and hospitals, all good books, all alms-giving and charity, all missionary toils and sacrifices, and especially the preaching of the Gospel, that Thy name may be everywhere honored. Often we pray amiss; often our infirmities and follies come with us to Thy throne. Forgive us, good Lord, forgive us this day, if we have abused the grace of this holy privilege; and throughout all this service may we wait upon Thee without the disturbance of the senses, without wandering of thought and restlessness of feeling; and may we go forth from Thy worship as those who have seen the

King in His beauty, and may we carry the joy of Thy presence into all the duties and toils of the awaiting week. Pardon all past offenses. Save us from the abuse of those virtues which Thy Spirit doth implant and nourish, nor suffer us at any time to pervert Thy grace by zeal without knowledge, or by truth without charity. Save us from the peculiar dangers of our times; save us likewise from those enemies to which growing years and widening reaches of experience render us so liable, lest we fail of the grace of God, and its very power turn to utter weakness. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; let the work of our hands be established, that in all things God may be glorified by all we are and by all we do. Day by day may our life be renewed in Thee, and in Thee may that life be enlarged and perfected, so that when flesh and heart fail God may be the strength of our heart and our portion forever. And to Thy name, Father, Son and Spirit, be the glory evermore. Amen.

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## FOR CLOSING DIVINE SERVICES.

O LORD, our Father, accept the worships and services we have offered Thee, the hymns sung, the supplications made, the sermon delivered. Forgive, we pray Thee, all its imperfections, the idle thoughts, the wandering imaginations, the feeble exercises of love and devotion. And now as we go to our homes to meditate upon the beauties of Thy law and the

good things of Thy house, fill us with the fullness and richness of Thy grace, and sanctify us by the indwelling of Thy Spirit. Take these things, O Holy Father, these things of Christ, and show them to us. We would love and serve Thee, our Saviour. O help us; so frail, so thoughtless, so ignorant are we, help us. Go with us during the coming week. Be with us in our hours of business and of retirement. Keep the world under our feet, and make us gentle and helpful to our fellows, and strong and courageous for Thee. In the name of Jesus we ask all. Amen.

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## FOR OPENING DIVINE SERVICE

BY A LAYMAN, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PASTOR.

WE beseech Thee, Heavenly Father, God of all, to bless us, Thy servants, who have assembled this day in Thy name to worship. We thank Thee for all the blessings which we enjoy. Every good thing we have comes from Thee. But above all do we thank Thee for the gift of Thy Son Jesus Christ, by whose death and sufferings in our stead we are permitted to live and to indulge the hope of life everlasting. O fill us with a sense of our sinfulness and guilt. We would be made deeply to deplore our manifold transgressions of Thy law and our utter failure to comply with its requisitions. O speak the word of forgiveness, cleanse and purify our hearts by the blood of Jesus, and adopt us into Thy family.

Lord, bestow upon us the influences of Thy Spirit, that we may be enlightened, upheld and guided into the Truth. Defend us against the wiles and snares of the Evil One, and enable us to keep our hearts with all diligence. Assist us in the discharge of the various duties which we owe to Thee and our fellow-men. May we lead peaceable, quiet and godly lives, and adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour in every position which Thy providence assigns to us. May our love for Thee and Thy Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit increase day by day, rising above all earthly loves and binding us to Thee forever.

We do most humbly beseech Thee to bless all the means sanctioned by Thy word, and adopted by Thy people, for extending our Redeemer's kingdom among men. Open the hearts of the heathen for the reception of Thy Truth, and make Thy people willing to support by their prayers and contributions all missionaries in foreign parts. Send forth more laborers into the harvest and increase the zeal of all Christians, that they may be prompted to undertake and to do more for the promotion of true godliness among men. Fill our beloved land with Thy presence. Make our rulers peace, and our exactors righteousness, and may we find the happiness of that people whose God is the Lord. Avert from us war, famine and pestilence. Give prosperity to all engaged in legitimate pursuits and enterprises, and let all the arts of peace flourish among us. Keep the hearts of our people from pride and all manner of idolatry and false religion, and honor us by mak-

ing us foremost in the work of evangelizing the world. Lord, bless the sick, the afflicted and the poor of our neighborhood. Give them patience under their distresses and deliverance from all their sorrows; and may we experience the blessedness of ministering to the wants of the needy, the orphan and the widow.

Let Thy choicest blessing rest upon the youth of our land, and make the Sabbath abundantly fruitful of good to the rising generation. Enlist the hearts of all Thy people in this good work, and impress every parent with the importance of this institution.

And now, Lord, prepare our hearts for the services of this hour, and give success to the labors of Thy servants this day. All these good things we ask in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Amen.

### CLOSING PRAYER.

O GOD of heaven, Father of our spirits and Redeemer of our souls, most fervently do we ask that Thy richest blessing may rest upon the services in which we have been this day engaged. May the lessons taught us by Thy word be treasured up and bring forth good fruit in our lives. We pray, too, that as the result of this day's labor throughout the world, Thy cause may be strengthened and the number of believers in Christ greatly increased. O make all ministers of the Gospel devoted to their calling, and give them the wisdom required to win souls to Christ. Sanctify them and increase their

moral power, and impart to them and to all Thy people greater efficiency, that they may prevail with men Let formalism and all error in faith and practice be superseded by the reign of spirituality, devotion to Thy truth, and conformity to its precepts. Unite Thy people. May they study the things that make for peace, and practice charity and good-will towards all who oppose. Let Thy word become to all the rule of faith and life. Enable us all to live godly, righteously and soberly in this present world, and to demean ourselves so that all men, seeing our good works, may be constrained to glorify our Father in heaven. Teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, living always in view of that day when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed, and every idle word shall be accounted for.

O God, keep us from falling and preserve us blameless until the coming of our blessed Lord. May we avoid every appearance of evil, and give no occasion to the adversary to gainsay. Remove far from us vanity, foolish jesting, rioting, banqueting and abominable idolatry, and give us grace to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. All these blessings we ask in the name of Him who taught us to say when we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not

into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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## A PRAYER FOR A PERFECT UNION OF ALL CHRISTIANS.

O LORD, our Father and the Father of all those who sincerely love Thee, who in Thy infinite compassion, goodness and mercy hath required of us, Thy children, not only to love Thee with our whole souls, minds, bodies and strength, but our neighbor as ourselves; and who didst shortly before Thy crucifixion give us a new commandment, that as little children we should love one another, we feel that we are living too much in the neglect of this duty, thereby increasing dullness, formality and coldness in spiritual things, and thus retarding the spread of the Gospel and the advancement of Thy kingdom. We would therefore, with humility and reverence, approach Thee, and from the depths of our hearts implore that Thou wouldst have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep faithfully and perfectly this Thy last commandment, that there may be a unity of all Thy professing followers, not in name, doctrine, forms, ceremonies or usages, but a unity of love in heart and mind and effort to one great object, the promotion of Thy cause, and the advancement of Thy kingdom on earth. O grant, our Father, that Thy children of every name, sect and

denomination, and in every clime, may feel and know that they are of the same brotherhood, having the same common Father, heirs of the same glorious promises, bound to the same common name, governed by the same laws, subjects of the same kingdom, alike liable to the same temptations, afflictions and dangers, influenced by the same Spirit, branches of the same vine, and required to bear the same fruit. May they know that unitedly they compose Thy Church on earth, and determine henceforth that no little differences shall ever cause them to fall out by the way, and no longer may they strive to build up only their own sect or denomination; but grant abundantly Thy Holy Spirit to the ministers of Christ of every denomination and in all places; and so unite all Thy people in one heart and mind in Thy service and love, praying for each other, bearing each other's burdens, and so fulfilling Thy law that truth, Thy glory, and the building up of the Church militant, shall be the only object at which they aim. So unite and aid them to carry on Thy works till the wilderness and solitary places shall be made glad, till every knee shall bow before Thee, every tongue utter Thy praise, and every heart be filled with Thy love, that Thy kingdom may come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## FOR A PERSON LABORING UNDER CONVICTION OF SIN.

HEARKEN to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for unto Thee will I pray. But wherewithal shall I appear before the Lord and bow myself before the most high God, whose holy laws I have broken, and whose just displeasure I have incurred! I acknowledge my transgression, O Lord, and my sin is ever before me. My iniquities have gone over my head, as a sore burden; they are too heavy for me to bear. How darkened has been my mind, how perverted my will, how disordered my passions, how hardened my heart, and how mad have I been in cleaving unto things displeasing unto my God, and destructive to my soul!

What shall I say unto Thee, O Lord? I scarcely know how to speak anything bad enough of myself. Thou art the offended Majesty, out of whose reach I cannot escape, and whose judgments I can never be able to endure. And though there is no peace to the wicked whilst he continues in his sins, yet if the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and return to the Lord, thy promise then, O God, is to have mercy upon him and abundantly to pardon. I have none to look unto for deliverance from my sins but unto the just and holy God, against whom I have so grievously sinned. Though our sins be as scarlet, Thou canst make them as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, Thou canst make them as wool. Yea, Thou

hast found a ransom, and laid help upon One that is mighty, even on Thy dear Son, who is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God through Him. Behold, O merciful Lord, a miserable object on whom to glorify Thy power and mercy! O look upon me in my blood, and bid me live. Speak death to my sins, that my soul may live, and forever bless Thy name. Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. For Thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon my sin, for it is great, too great for any but a God of infinite goodness and mercy to forgive. O magnify Thyself in my deliverance. Make it seen, in Thy work upon my soul, how great things, worthy of God, Thou canst do; that where sin hath abounded Thy grace can much more abound. Return, O Lord; deliver my soul. O save me for Thy mercy's sake. Save me from the guilt and punishment, from the power and pollution, of all my sins. And Thou, Lord, who knowest how to deliver, make me some way to escape out of the perplexities into which my sins have cast me, that my iniquities may not be my ruin, but that they may be taken away and forgiven, and washed out with the blood of Jesus Christ. Turn Thou me, O Lord God of my salvation, that I may be turned from my sins, and from this present evil world, unto Thyself. O give me such conviction as may end in sound conversion, and let me experience in myself that grace of God which bringeth salvation. I want Thy grace, O Lord, and I shall want it to all eternity. O God of all grace, that keepest mercy

for thousands, hast Thou not a blessing for me, a blessing for my perishing soul? For Thy dear Son my only Saviour's sake, let me find such grace in Thy sight. O God, do that work of Thy grace thoroughly upon my heart, for which I may have cause to glorify Thy name for evermore. Amen.

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## IN TROUBLE OF SOUL.

O GOD of the spirits of all flesh, Thou knowest the grievous torment of a wounded spirit, and hast promised not to break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax; have pity, therefore, upon Thy disconsolate servant, whose spirit is sore broken and overwhelmed within him (or her). Relieve and heal him, O Thou gracious God; comfort him with Thy peace, and show unto his soul that Thou hast thoughts of love and mercy towards him. O blessed Jesus, who callest to Thee the laboring and heavy-laden sinners, and promisest them rest for their souls, give some glimpse of Thy mercy, some faith in Thy promises, to this poor troubled soul, that is so cast down with a sense of his sin, and with a fear of Thy wrath. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. O hide not Thy face from Thy servant, nor cast him away from Thy presence in displeasure, but speak peace to him, and cause Thy grace to shine upon him. O God, be Thou pleased to cheer him with

the hope of pardon and acceptance with Thee; give him a comfortable affiance in Thee; give him the witness of Thy Spirit with his spirit, to persuade him that he is Thy child; whom Thou lovest Thou chastenest. O that he may see love in the rod, and take it as the chastisement of a kind Father, and not the vengeance of an incensed Judge, and that he may find this humiliation working for his everlasting happiness. Let him find that they who mourn are blessed and shall be comforted, and that all who sow in tears shall reap in joy. O that his sorrow may be the godly sorrow which worketh repentance not to be repented of. Let it, we pray Thee, have this happy issue, and end in unspeakable and glorious joy. Let him not sorrow as one without hope; let him see that trouble for sin is a preservative from hell, and that thousands who are now in glory went this very way to heaven, working out their salvation with fear and trembling; and groaning under the burden of sin here, that they might not lie under it forever. Let him, in the view of Thy dealings with others, learn to commit himself to Thee; and when he walketh in darkness and hath no light, let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon His God. O Lord, rebuke him not in Thy anger, neither chasten him in Thy sore displeasure, but return and set him free from the heavy pressure now upon him. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver him for Thy name's sake, and for Thy righteousness' sake bring his soul out of trouble. Thou hast showed him great and sore troubles; be Thou

pleased to revive him again, that he may rejoice in Thee. Show him Thy mercy, O Lord, and grant him Thy salvation. O refresh him early with Thy mercy, that he may be glad and rejoice in Thee all his days. Let him see that Thou considereth his troubles and knowest his soul in adversity; so shall Thy name have the glory and his soul the comfort of Thy seasonable relief; nor shall he ever cease to praise Thee for Thy sweet, abundant mercies to him, in Thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## IN VIEW OF DEATH.

### PSALM XXIII.

O MOST merciful God, I rejoice to know that Thou dost rule with a sovereign sway on earth, as well as in heaven. Thou art the Maker of my frail body and the Father of my immortal soul. Thou hast revealed unto me through Thy Son, my Lord and Saviour, the way of life. Now, O Father, I do cordially receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour and only Redeemer, believing the whole testimony which Thou hast given respecting His divine character, His incarnation, His pure and holy life, His expiatory and meritorious death, and His glorious resurrection and ascension. O blessed Saviour, my only hope and confidence of being saved rests on Thy mediatorial work and prevailing intercession. Do Thou even now, O blessed Saviour, smile on Thy

poor servant. Enable me to rejoice in sweet assurance of Thy rich redeeming love. I acknowledge that I have no claim to Thy favor on account of any merit of mine, for in my flesh there is no good thing and my works of righteousness are as filthy rags.

Thy word and Thy Spirit have taught me that I am a sinner. I know I have sinned and come short of Thy glory. My best services have been mingled with sin. Now, O Lord, my God, I would penitently confess all my sin and acknowledge my transgression, and would plead in my defense nothing but the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died, the just for the unjust, to bring me nearer to Thee. For His sake alone do I ask the pardon of my sin and the salvation of my soul; for although I am unworthy, He is most worthy; though I have no righteousness, He has provided by His death and His unspotted life a complete, justifying righteousness, in which pure robe I pray I may be clothed, so that I may be presented at last without spot or blemish to Thyself in Thy kingdom. O Lord, grant that as long as I am in the body I may glorify Thy name, both with soul and body. O make use of me as an humble instrument of advancing Thy kingdom on earth and promoting the salvation of immortal souls. If Thou hast appointed sufferings for me here below, I beseech Thee to consider my weakness, and let Thy chastisements be those of a loving Father, that I may be partaker of Thy holiness. O most merciful God, cast me not

off in this hour of sore affliction. Draw near unto me and let me behold Thy reconciled face. Forsake me not when my strength faileth, but let Thy grace be sufficient for me. Preserve my mind clear and strong unto the last, and my body from protracted disease and excruciating pain. Deliver me from despondency in my last hours, and enable me to bear affliction with patience, fortitude and perfect submission to Thy holy will. Lift upon me perpetually the light of Thy countenance, and cause me to rejoice in Thy salvation and in the hope of Thy glory. May the peace that passeth all understanding be constantly enjoyed in my soul to the end of life. Now, O my God, as I am near my end, and as I know I must soon put off this tabernacle, I do humbly and earnestly beseech Thee to prepare me for this inevitable and solemn event. Give me, if it please Thee, an easy passage through the gate of death. Fortify my mind against the terrors of death. Drive away the darkness which hangs over the grave, and lead me gently down into the gloomy valley. O my kind Shepherd, who hast tasted the bitterness of death for me, and who knowest how to sympathize with and succor the sheep of Thy pasture, be Thou present to guide, to support and to comfort me. May beams of heavenly light illuminate the dark valley and shadow of death. When heart and flesh fail be Thou the strength of my heart and my portion forever. When my spirit leaves this earthly prison, Lord Jesus, receive it. May I have an abundant entrance administered

unto me into Thy kingdom of glory, through Christ Jesus my Redeemer. Amen.

Sing:

God of my life, Thy boundless grace, &c.

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## TO USE WITH A YOUNG PERSON UNPREPARED TO DIE.

PSALM LI.

O FATHER of mercies and God of all comfort, to whom alone belong the issues of life and death, look down from heaven, we humbly beseech Thee, with the eyes of mercy, upon this person here lying under Thy hand in great weakness of body. Look graciously upon him (or her), O Lord, and strengthen him with Thy grace and Holy Spirit. Give him unfeigned repentance for all the sins and errors of his past life, and steadfast faith in Thy Son Jesus, that his sins may be blotted out in Thy mercy and his pardon sealed in heaven, before he go hence and be no more seen by mortals. If it is Thy will, may he be raised up, and grant him a longer continuance among us. But if his dissolution draweth near, so fit and prepare him, we beseech Thee, against the hour of death, that after his departure hence in peace, and in Thy favor, his soul may be received into Thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## FOR ONE IN DANGEROUS ILLNESS.

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, in Thee we live and move and have our being. We rejoice to think that Thy hand is never shortened that it cannot save, that Thine ear is never heavy that it cannot hear. We rejoice to think of Thine own recorded promise, that the prayer of faith, if consistent with Thy blessed will, will save the sick. We entreat Thee to look down in great mercy on that member of our family who is this (day) laid on a bed of languishing. May it please Thee of Thine infinite goodness speedily to restore (him). Do Thou rebuke his disease. Bring him back from the gates of the grave. May the sickness not be unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified thereby. Mitigate the severity of pain. Grant him patience under his sufferings, unmurmuring submission to the will of Him who afflicteth not willingly. His times are in Thy hands. We commend him, soul and body, to Thee, the Great Physician. If Thou seest meet to raise him up, may restored health and strength be more than ever given unto Thee; but if Thou hast otherwise determined, do Thou fit him for his eternal change. To him to live may it be Christ; to him to die may it be great gain. And the praise shall be Thine forever. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR A CHRISTIAN MOTHER AND WIFE IN TIMES OF AFFLICTION.

HEBREWS XII, 1—14.

O BLESSED Lord God, our Heavenly Father, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, and who didst give Thine only Son to die for our sins, we most humbly confess that we are not worthy of the least of all Thy favors, and that in our lowest estate our condition is better than we deserve; yet impelled by our necessity, and encouraged by Thy most gracious invitation and promise, we come to Thee in this dark hour of adversity, knowing that vain is the help of man, but if we cast our burdens upon Thee, Thou wilt sustain us.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, for Jesus' sake, to look compassionately upon this Thine handmaiden in her affliction, and most graciously to sanctify it to her good. May Thy grace be sufficient for her present need, so assimilating her to Thy will that her responding heart shall say, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." As the sources of earthly pleasure fail her, may the consolations of Thy grace be so increased that she shall find it good to be afflicted. May she remember that contradiction of sinners Jesus endured, His bloody sweat and agony in Gethsemane, His cruel mockings and scourgings in Pilate's Hall, and His ignominious death on the cross for her redemption; and remembering, may

she endure hardness as a good soldier, and not seek to be above her Lord. Thou hast said that all things work together for good to them that love Thee, and that these light afflictions, which are but for a moment, work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Be pleased, O Lord, to give her Thy Holy Spirit, that she may use this present affliction as a discipline for the correcting of her soul, the subjecting of her body, the purifying of her heart, the enlightening of her mind, and a reverent respect unto the recompense of reward. Wilt Thou graciously pardon her sins and cleanse her from all unrighteousness, and if at any time she hath, through manifold temptations, questioned Thy goodness or rebelled against Thy orderings, be pleased, O Lord, to forgive this her wickedness; heal her backslidings and restore unto her the joy of Thy salvation, that she may yet praise Thee, and in meek submission say, "It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth Him good."

Thou hast promised, through Thy beloved Son, that they who labor and are heavy-laden may find rest in Him. Wilt Thou in mercy vouchsafe unto her this hour such peaceful, trusting and satisfactory rest in Jesus Christ, her Saviour, that her inward, spiritual comfort shall far exceed and triumph over her present distress.

We would not murmur against Thy ever-gracious providence, nor resist Thy unerring will, but we humbly pray that, if consistent with Thy glorious kingdom on earth and her own spiritual advance-

ment, Thou wilt mercifully bring her deliverance from this affliction; that, like gold refined by the fire, she may come forth from the furnace purified and perfected, reflecting Thine own blessed image, imbued with Thy Spirit, and endowed with all heavenly graces, to be a more humble, devout, exemplary and useful Christian, both in her own household and the Church of Thine own right hand planting.

We humbly ask these mercies, and all others needful for her and for us all, in the name and for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## PRAYER TO BE USED AT THE BEDSIDE OF A DYING BELIEVER.

EVER-BLESSED GOD, we rejoice to know that our times are in Thy hands. The Lord gives us our lives, and He has a sovereign right to take them away. Give us grace to say, Blessed be the name of the Lord! Do Thou look down in great mercy on Thy servant, whom Thou art about to take to Thyself. Let (him) know that leaning on Jesus the sting is plucked away from death, and the grave is robbed of its victory. O Thou ever-living Redeemer, Thou great "Abolisher of Death," who hast brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel, smooth this dying pillow; let Thy voice be heard, saying, "Fear not, it is I; be not afraid." Mitigate the

severity of pain. Give him a peaceful entrance into glory; may Thine angels even now be waiting to waft him to Thy presence; may he know that Thou art faithful who hast promised, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Forgive, O forgive all his past sins. May this be the one glorious truth to which his soul clings in a dying hour: "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from all sin." Lord, may Thine own blessed soul-sustaining peace be his; a few more moments and he will wake up in heaven; sorrow and sighing shall have fled away forever. May he even desire to depart and to be with Christ, and feel this to be indeed far better. Hear us, good Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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## TO BE USED BY A FAMILY WHEN VISITED WITH SICKNESS.

O LORD, our God, we desire to unite in blessing Thee for the freedom of approach which we enjoy at all times to the throne of grace, through the atoning sacrifice of our merciful Redeemer. This, O most merciful God, is with us of this household a day of trouble, seeing Thou art visiting us by the disease Thou hast brought on one of our number. O God, we would say Thy hand is upon us, Thy hand is upon us, for we know that affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out

of the ground. We rejoice to place ourselves in Thy hands, for Thou art acquainted with all our wants, and it is by Thee alone they can be supplied. Visit especially, in Thy compassion, this afflicted one, and if consistent with Thy heavenly will restore (him) to health and strength and other days of usefulness in the world. Rebuke the disease which confines him to the bed of languishing. Say unto him, O our Saviour, Arise; thy sins are forgiven thee; take up thy bed and walk. If such mercy is yet in store for him, may he never forget Thy kindness and love. But, O God, if death be in the cup, if indeed this sickness be unto death, prepare him for going hence. Reveal Thyself in mercy to his soul, and give him to enjoy the comfort of knowing that he possesses an interest in Thy love which is better than life. Quicken his apprehensions with regard to all that pertains to salvation, so that every doubt and all distracting fear may be removed from his mind. O Thou Shepherd of Israel, compass him as with a shield, and when he walks through the valley of the shadow of death be Thou with him to comfort him by Thy rod and Thy staff, and to conduct him safely to the mansions of everlasting bliss in the kingdom of heaven. Impart to him every consolation of which he stands in need, and say in mercy to his soul, Fear not, for I have redeemed thee; I have called Thee by thy name, thou art Mine; when thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire,

thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee; for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour. O that this important truth were habitually remembered by us: how it is that we are so much exposed to disease, and so certainly exposed to the stroke of death. Enable us, therefore, to look constantly to Him who can take away sin itself, who can cleanse us from all our pollutions, and clothe us in those robes which have been made white in the blood of the eternal covenant. O may we put on Christ as we are entreated to do, and then we shall not be hurt of the second death. Under the shadow of His wings we shall find protection from every enemy, and at last we shall enter in safety that happy place where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor sighing, neither shall there be any more pain. Lord, help us by the guiding influences of Thy Holy Spirit to take comfort, amid all our troubles and afflictions, from these happy prospects. And to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost be everlasting praise, world without end. Amen.

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## DOMESTIC SORROWS—IN CASE OF EXTREME ILLNESS OR BEREAVEMENT.

BE with us now, O Lord, in the time of our sore trial. Help us to lift up our souls to Thee, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Intercessor, in the

exercise of humble and submissive faith. To whom can we turn in this extremity but unto Thee, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort! Our times are in Thy hands. To Thee it belongeth to appoint unto us prosperity or adversity, health or sickness, life or death. Whatsoever of comfort and mercy we have enjoyed, or may now enjoy, we gratefully trace it all to Thee, the fountain of all good. Whatsoever of sorrow and affliction has come upon us, we bow in adoring confidence and submission to Thy righteous will. May the sanctified uses and improvement of the afflictions now sent upon us, in Thy mysterious but holy providence, be confined in us, through the supplies of Thy grace, to Thy glory and to our spiritual profit. May these chastenings of Thy faithful parental love be so overruled that through them we may be made partakers of Thy holiness. Assuage, O most merciful God, the severity of Thy stroke and the bitterness of our grief, that we may not faint or perish under Thy hand. We deserve Thy displeasure for our sins, but spare us in Thy mercy, and glorify the riches of Thy grace in our deliverance and salvation. May we be so graciously upheld and contented under these present trials, and in the issue of them, that we may have whereof to testify to others in their sorrows of Thy mercy in Christ and of Thy divine consolations. May we receive the special baptism of grace with the baptism of sufferings, that so we may be qualified to sympathize most tenderly with the sufferings of others; and when we shall at any time be admitted

into the sacred inner circle of human grief, may we be made blessed ministers of comfort to others by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. If it shall seem good to Thee, in Thy sovereign pleasure, that sufferings shall abound in us, then may we have it to say to the praise of Thy grace that our consolation also aboundeth by Christ Jesus. Turn Thou, O Lord, our sorrows into joys, our darkness into light, our sicknesses and bereavements into the fadeless vigor and glory of immortality in heaven. By the pressure of our own afflictions may we be led even now to feel for the woes of our fellow-creatures; that the sick, whose healings may conduce to Thy glory; spare useful lives to dependent families, to the Church, to the world. Prepare those appointed unto death for the change that awaits them, and the living to serve Thy cause and promote Thy glory. Help us now to say from the heart, as we have been taught by our blessed Lord Jesus:

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THE EVENING AFTER THE BURIAL OF A MEMBER OF A FAMILY.

JOHN XI, 1—47.

O LORD, our God, in our very souls we desire humbly to adore Thee as the Father of all the families of the earth, and in the attitude of prayer we would in deep humility seek Thy face. Our lives are in Thy hand; on Thee we are dependent for life and health, and friends and safe abode. Thou orderest our steps, and dost exercise over us a watchful, unceasing care. Our being is in Thee. Under the shadow of Thy throne we dwell in security. By day we realize Thy goodness, and at night Thy providence guards us in our defenseless sleep and keeps us secure from danger and sudden calamity. We rest in peace because Thou art our keeper. In the days of prosperity we lift up our hearts in grateful emotions to Thee, as the bestower of every blessing we enjoy; and in times of adversity and affliction we would not forget Thee.

To-day, O Lord, we have been called upon to shed the tear of affection at the grave of a member of our household, as we committed to its keeping all that was mortal of our departed one—dust to dust, ashes to ashes. In humble submission we desire to recognize the tokens of Thy love and the wisdom of each divine procedure. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. The earth has received its treasure,

and our stricken hearts, mourning the loss of earthly companionship, still cling to Thee for comfort in the hour of bereavement and sorrow. O Thou who doest all things well, who never dost unnecessarily afflict Thy people, be with us in this the time of our sadness, and pour light and comfort into our hearts. Raise us up to Thee in the hope, and grant us, O Lord, grace that we may not only submit to the teachings of Thy providence, but make them the means of lasting social and spiritual benefit. We can never recall our loved one to our home circle again; the gloom of the grave shuts out from our sight that loved form once in our midst, but now a tenant of the tomb. May we who survive be drawn to each other in closer, purer bonds of affection and unity, so that we may pass the waves of this transitory life with increased delight, and prepare for a happier re-union in the mansions above, where no broken tie shall ever be realized, and where death never enters. May increased love and tenderness rule in our hearts, gentle hands guide each other along the paths of life, and sweeter voices counsel each other in all our family relations; and above all, may we learn by this affliction to love Thee supremely; may it teach us to manifest a more loving obedience and perfect submission to Thy will in all things, that we may be more like our divine Redeemer, more humble, more teachable, more self-denying, possessing more of His mind, His spirit, His fervent desire for the present and future happiness of all men, so that when we, too, shall lay

down these tenements of clay, we may triumph through the blood of the Lamb, pass safely through the valley of the shadow of death to our house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, a family forever with the Lord. Thanks to Thy name, O most gracious God, for the blessings, the comforts and joys of the Christian religion, present and future, and for the assurance of a glorious resurrection and of life eternal in heaven. From what we have experienced may we learn the shortness and uncertainty of this life; that it is but a fleeting show, like the vapor of the cloud, the fading flower or leaf; and placing our affections more on heaven and less on earth, may we grow daily in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And now, O most gracious Lord, into our Father's hands we commit us as a family, praying that He would guide us through life by His counsel, and in the end save us with an everlasting salvation, through Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

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## A PRAYER FOR A WOMAN IN TRAVAIL.

O LORD our God, who by Thy great and infinite love and compassion has not only permitted but required us to make known our wants, desires and supplications unto Thee, with the promise that Thou wouldst be a present help in every time of need, and that in answer to our petitions Thou wouldst

give peace to the troubled, comfort to the afflicted, joy to the sorrowing, and health to the sick—with faith in Thy promise, we would now implore Thy compassion in behalf of our friend, Thy servant, now suffering in the pangs of childbirth. Wilt Thou be pleased to preserve and bring her safely through its perils. Give her strength under her trials, and that faith, charity and hope that shall claim Thy promise in her behalf, remembering that the fruits of the womb is Thy reward. May she live to see and bring up her offspring in Thy nurture and admonition, and with a thankful heart give glory to Thee for the inestimable mercies vouchsafed her. Nevertheless, O Lord, we yield to Thy will, and will strive to embrace what sorrow Thou mayst have in store for us. Still, O our Father, bestow some beam from Thyself to illume her mind, that she may confidently depend on Thee, and bow with submission to Thy righteous will, that in the end she may receive everlasting joy and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## AFTER THE BIRTH OF AN INFANT.

O GOD our Heavenly Father, we render to Thee our thanks for all Thy tender mercies, and for having spared our lives amidst all the dangers through which we have passed; and especially do we lift up to Thee, O God, our humble tribute of praise for

Thy goodness manifested to us on this occasion. We do thank Thee for the member Thou hast added to our family, and for the life Thou hast spared to us. Thou hast watched over us and brought us safely through the hour of trial, and through dangers that the knowledge of no man could detect and avert. Thou hast delivered us from sorrow. O Thou who hearest the prayers of Thy people, as Thou hast heard our prayers and brought us thus far in peace and safety, hear us now when we pray that she whom Thou hast so mercifully dealt with may continue to experience much of Thy favor till in due time she is raised in strength, more determined than ever to live wholly devoted to Thee, the God who redeems her. Take the child, O Lord, under Thine especial care. From this hour sanctify him (her) to Thyself. Amidst all the dangers of youth, the evils of this world, the snares and temptations with which the human path is beset, do Thou guide and protect him till, having served Thee on earth, the purposes of Thy providence being accomplished, he may be a member of the household of faith, and meet at last with the family of God in heaven. Thou knowest all that lies in that short path from the cradle to the grave. We would therefore dedicate to Thee this offspring, praying Thy favor, which is life, and Thy loving kindness, which is better than life. If it should please Thee, in Thy wise providence, to take him away before the years of maturity shall have been reached, O give us grace to part with those Thou hast given in the spirit of

Christian resignation. May we lightly hold to all the things of this earth, so that at Thy command we may easily let them go, saying in faith, It is the Lord that gives, and the Lord that takes away; blessed be His holy name.

May we who occupy the important situation of parents feel, deeply feel, the responsibility which rests upon us; and may we hear Thy voice at this time, saying, Take this child and nurse it for Me, and I will give thee thy reward. Give us grace, O Father, to enable us to train up our children in the way they should go, so that at the great day of accounts we may say, Lord, here are we and the children whom Thou hast given us. Hear us, O gracious Father, we beseech Thee, and save us in Thine everlasting kingdom, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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## PECUNIARY DIFFICULTIES.

O ALMIGHTY GOD and most merciful Lord, who by Thy power and wisdom orderest all things, both in heaven and earth, look graciously upon me (or us), whom Thou hast suffered to fall into great worldly difficulties, which bring many temptations and much distress and apprehension upon me; and if it be in accordance with Thy holy will, deliver me, O Lord, from these difficulties, and especially from the evils to body or soul which may ensue from their continuance. Enable me to discover the

best means for rescuing myself justly and successfully, with a Christian diligence, from my present trials and embarrassment. But if in Thy wisdom Thou shalt determine that it is best for me to continue in my present distress, teach me a full and patient resignation to Thy holy will; preserve me from all repining, all discontent with the dealings of Thy providence towards me; give me full trust in mercy and goodness, a full assurance of that gracious promise that all things shall work together for good to them that love God. Guard me against all temptations to fraud or deceit to which my present situation may expose me. But especially grant, O most benignant Lord, that the present and every other trial of my life may bring me nearer to Thee, may make me more desirous of attaining more earnestness in laboring to attain those true riches which are at Thy right hand for evermore. Grant these things, O Lord, for Christ Jesus' sake, our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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## FAST DAY.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, our Heavenly Father, we humbly and most earnestly invoke Thy presence at this time, that we may pour our fervent supplications into Thy compassionate ear, which we trust is ever open to the plaintive petitions of Thy needy creatures. We feel most sensibly the pressing

necessity of calling upon Thee for help in this season of severe trial and extreme want. There is no other in whom we can trust. Thou alone hast the words of everlasting life, and that we may draw graciously near to Thy sacred throne, and receive the rich benefits and divine blessings which flow from Thy holy presence, we would abstain from food and the use of all ordinary means of subsistence this day, relying upon the bountiful provision of Thy free grace. And now, O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee to look upon our helpless and forlorn condition, and according to the fullness of Thy great mercy administer unto us. We feel and freely confess our unworthiness, and acknowledge our individual and national sins; they are doubtless very great and offensive in Thy sight—yet may we not hope for Thy forgiveness, O merciful Father? Are not Thy promises designed for our encouragement? We believe Thou wilt forgive us if we sincerely repent. We do most sincerely and heartily repent of all our sins, and pray Thee for restraining grace to prevent us from ever doing anything hereafter that may be offensive in Thy sight. Thou knowest our weakness and the power of temptation, and how difficult it is oftentimes to resist. Help us, O God, help us, that we may overcome! We are persuaded that we may overcome through Christ, who hath loved us and given Himself for us. Our wretchedness we are sure is the result of our transgression. We would, then, cease to transgress, that we may cease to be wretched. We would not sin simply because it

is displeasing to Thee. We would not offend Thee, righteous Father, but live so as to secure Thy smiles, which are ever feasts to our souls.

We pray Thee that the supplications and services of Thy servants this day may be regarded by Thee, and that Thou mayest, in the greatness of Thy mercy, avert the evil that threatens this nation, and remove the sufferings and distresses of the people; and may the joys of the future more than equal the sorrows of the present, and may Thy Church, which groans under a heavy burden of oppression from the the enemy, be speedily relieved; and as the sun, coming out from behind dark clouds, puts on his strength and shines with brighter lustre, so may she, when the day of darkness is passed, appear beautified in the smiles of her God. And, O Lord, we pray Thee that even while our troubles last, that, like as the storm is tempered to the shorn lamb, so may our sorrows be mixed plentifully with the comfort wherewith Thou dost comfort Thy people; and O may we ask that the future may bring us the unmixed blessings which our sins have denied in the past, and may the outflowings of Thy love fill our hearts with perpetual gladness. And further, we pray that a knowledge of Thy righteous will may be carried to all nations, and that all peoples may learn the truth as it is in Jesus; that the poor may be rich in faith, that the humble may be exalted by goodness and mercy, and that the erring may be reclaimed from the paths of death. May the glorious Gospel of Thy blessed Son be propagated in

every land so fully as that the rich effusions of Thy blessed Spirit may cover the earth as the waters do the channels of the great deep; and when the work of earth is done, receive us all into that house not made with hands, eternal, and in the heavens. All of which we ask through riches of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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## THANKSGIVING.

GREAT PARENT of good, to Thee, the blessed fountain of life, light, joy and comfort, we desire to ascribe all glory. The earth is full of Thy goodness, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. We thank Thee that our lives have fallen to us in such pleasant places, and that we have such a goodly heritage; that Thou hast fed and clothed and provided for us, not the necessaries only, but so many of the comforts and conveniences of life; that Thou hast been our Deliverer in danger, our Help in trouble, and our Guide in darkness. Prepare our hearts to unite with Thy people in grateful offerings for private and public mercies. We thank Thee that we have our favored lot in a land where Thy churches are planted, where civil and religious liberty abounds, where we are favored with the means of useful knowledge, and the blessings of civil government. Direct in the great councils of our nation. Bless Thy servant, the President of these States, and all in

places of subordinate trust. Let not the wicked bear rule, nor the vile be exalted. Let no root of bitterness spring up to trouble us. Lay Thy restraints on the strong corruptions of the heart, and dispose Thy people to a due subjection to lawful authority, not for wrath, but for conscience' sake. Bless this State and the government more immediately over us. Bless all means for the advancement of knowledge and the useful arts; and may Thy blessings, which maketh rich, rest upon our basket, our store, and on all the labor of our hands. But, above all, we pray that Thou wouldst rain down righteousness upon us, cause pure and undefiled religion to revive, and may Zion rise from the dust and put on her beautiful garments. Be with the ministers of the Gospel; may their hands be made strong by the hands of our God. Extend the kingdom of the Redeemer to the remotest ends of the earth; and under the influence of that religion, which is love, may war have an end, and all the members of this Thy great family unite in brotherly love. Establish Thy precious covenant with us of this house, and to all Thy gifts wilt Thou add a grateful heart. Prepare us and all Thy people for the public solemnities of this day, and may we so offer praise that we may glorify God. We commit ourselves, O God, and all for whom we ought to pray, to Thy infinite mercy in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## HUMILIATION.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Do Thou pour out upon us this day the spirit of grace and of supplication, the spirit of humility and deep abasement. In self-renouncing lowliness we desire to take the publican's place and cry out, "Unclean, unclean! God be merciful unto us, sinners!"

Father, we have sinned against heaven and in Thy sight; we are no more worthy to be called Thy children. Our sins have reached unto the clouds; they are sins of deep aggravation; they have been committed against manifold privileges, solemn warnings, and earnest entreaties. The kindness of the best earthly friend has been nothing to Thine, and yet our hearts have been ungrateful and unthankful. We acknowledge our sins as individuals. Our love has been cold, our faith weak, our graces languid, our services polluted; self and sin have mingled with our best attempts to glorify Thee. We have not been exercising a holy jealousy over ourselves. We have not had that charity which hopeth all things, and believeth all things, and endureth all things. In prosperity we have been unmindful of the Author of our mercies. In adversity we have been tempted to give way to hard thoughts and unrighteous surmises about the faithfulness of Thy dealings.

We acknowledge our sins as families. We have not been exhibiting a holy consistency of walk and

conversation. We have not been declaring before the world that as for us and our house we will serve the Lord. The flame of love and devotion has not burned brightly on the domestic altar as it ought. We have not done what we might have done for Thee. We have been more set on selfish and worldly schemes and objects than in devising measures for the promotion of Thy glory and the good of our fellow-men. We confess our sins as a Church and as a nation. We mourn and blush to think of the vice and profligacy, the intemperance and ungodliness, which is rising up in terrible memorial against our highly-favored land. We mourn the little we have done, the much we have left undone, to promote Thy cause in the world. Father, forgive us these our many offenses; humble us in the dust because of all our unworthiness. Give us grace this day, while we mourn the past, humbly but earnestly to resolve to live more devotedly to Thee in the future. Accept of our unworthy confessions for Jesus' sake. Sprinkle these guilty hearts with His precious blood. Let us seek in all time to come to walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness of life to the glory of Thy name.

We commend ourselves and all belonging to us to Thy care and keeping; never leave and never forsake us; and all that we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING.

LUKE, 1—20.

WE adore Thee, O God, gracious Giver of every good and perfect gift, that as individuals and a family we live to celebrate another return of that glad day which filled heaven with joy and promises to fill earth with peace. We call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless Thy holy name, that Thou didst so love the world as to give Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. With Him Thou dost also freely give us all things. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits? May we this day take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. In our experience let us prove that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

We penitently confess how unworthy we are of the multitude of those tender mercies which have crowned the past year of our unfaithful, unprofitable lives. What but our sins could exceed Thy grace? Yet, O matchless Mercy, even where our sins abound Thy grace much more abounds. Blessed God, we pray Thee, for Jesus' sake, blot out our transgressions. Give us Thy Holy Spirit, as Thou hast promised to those who ask Thee. Help us to do good unto all men, especially unto them which are of the household of faith. Enlarge our hearts and open

our hands to the poor, whom we have always with us. In giving away we do it as unto Thee. Help us to use without abuse the means which Thou hast bestowed. Assist us to provide bags that wax not old, and to lay up incorruptible treasure in heaven. May we keep our hearts with diligence, and remember that we must give account to Thee of every idle word. Turn our feet to Thy testimonies. In keeping all Thy commandments may we find great reward. Permit us to enjoy, without excess, the festivities of this season. Fill our hearts with gladness, and may our lips show forth Thy praise. Prevent the pollution of our bodies, and make them and our souls the habitations of the Holy Spirit. Preserve our lives and our loved ones. Fit us, by daily grace, to perform the duties, improve the privileges, and suffer the afflictions of this evil world, as we hasten to the coming of Jesus the Saviour. And to Father and Spirit, through the Son, be the glory as it was, is now, and ever shall be.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THE LAST NIGHT OF THE YEAR.

O LORD, we adore Thee as the God of times and seasons, of days and of years. Thou hadst no beginning of days; Thou canst know no end of years. Amidst fleeting moments and revolving seasons, the past and present and future are to Thee one ever-present "Now." A thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. It is our comfort to know, amid so much that is transient in a fleeting world, that Thou art the same. We desire, on this the last day of another year, to bow at Thy footstool. We have indeed good reason this night to say, "The Lord has helped us." From how many unseen dangers hast Thou delivered us; from how many temptations, which we had no strength of our own to resist, hast Thou rescued us. How many have this last year been wasted with sickness or racked with pain, or stretched on beds of languishing, yet Thou hast mercifully protected us. How many households have been darkened with the shadows of death, the hallowed circle broken, and yet we are still among the living to praise Thee. How many thousands of our fellow-men, since the year began, have passed into eternity; but we are yet spared; we are preserved another year longer. Night after night we laid ourselves down and slept because the Lord sustained us, and we are still the objects of His unceasing watchfulness and tender care. O God, ere the record has passed upwards to Thy Great Book, do

Thou wash out every stain in the blood of Christ. We have no hope but in Him. We desire this night to hear His own blessed words of consolation and mercy, "Son, daughter, be of good cheer, Thy sins are all forgiven Thee." Bring us more and more to realize the untold depth of obligation under which we are laid to Him who hath loved us with an everlasting love. May the lives which Thou hast during another year prolonged and preserved by Thy bounty be willingly consecrated to Thy praise.

We desire to commend to Thy goodness all in whom we are interested. May our absent friends meet us this night in spirit around the throne of heavenly grace. Make them the objects of Thy providential bounty; may they, too, be brought to bewail the sins of the past, and seek for new grace in entering on a new period of existence. O when this rapid flight of years shall have come to an end, may we all be found in the regions of everlasting day, to unite together in singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. We desire to retire to rest under the solemn impression that we are a year nearer eternity; that a year more of our probation time is fled; that a year less of grace and opportunity and privilege belongs to us. Lord, take the charge of us, and if Thou art pleased to spare us to see the light of a new day and a new year, may it be to us the emblem of a better morning and a nobler term of being, when earth's shadows and darkness shall have forever fled. And all we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY—MORNING.

PSALM XC.

ALMIGHTY FATHER of mercies, Thou hast been in all generations the refuge and the dwelling-place of Thy people. Yea, before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

When we consider, O Lord, that a thousand years are with Thee as one day, we must feel that our own life is but the shadow of a dream, a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away. We are forcibly reminded by this anniversary of the transitory nature of human affairs. Another year has been numbered with those which can nevermore be recalled. We are silently but solemnly admonished of the momentous truth, that in the order of Thy providence the priceless opportunities of this life are becoming fewer and fewer, and that our means of doing good are rapidly growing less, as the days of our years increase. Yet, O Lord, may we not repine at the accomplishment of Thy will, nor be unconcerned in reviewing our past lives; may we not waste in idle regrets the time yet left us, nor may we regard with callous indifference the failures, the errors, the transgressions of which we have been guilty, and which can never be effaced but in the blood of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, which cleanseth us from all sin. We give Thee thanks, O Ruler of the universe, for the mercies Thou hast lavished upon

us during the year that has closed. Thou hast soothed our afflictions, relieved our distresses, and heightened our joys; Thou hast supplied us with food and raiment, and with all those things which are necessary for the sustenance and comfort of the body. We have enjoyed abundant spiritual privileges and enlarged opportunities of doing good. We adore and bless Thee, O Heavenly Shepherd, for these and all other mercies with which Thou hast crowned our lives.

Now, O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee, pardon our manifold sins and transgressions. May we so trust in the atoning mercies of Thy dear Son, that our poor and imperfect obedience to Thy law may not be remembered against us, but be accepted through the perfect righteousness of Him who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Wouldst Thou, then, dwell in our hearts and possess our souls, that we may love Thee above all, and serve Thee with zeal and godly fear throughout our lives.

Most humbly do we pray Thy blessing upon us as a family during the coming year. Provide things convenient for us; bless us in our basket and store; give us health of body, contentment of mind, love and sympathy towards our fellow-men, and peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. As members of the same family, may we be mutually a help and a blessing one to another. Remember our absent friends and loved ones; bless our enemies, if such there be; and may Thy grace abound richly unto all men.

Now, O Lord, with all we have and are, we commit us into Thy hands for this year, and so long as we shall remain on earth. Give us courage in adversity, strength in weakness, fortitude in affliction, and hearts to do Thy will. Finally, when we have done and suffered all that Thou hast appointed us to do and to suffer on earth, receive us and crown us heirs of Thine immortality in heaven, through Christ our Redeemer.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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## EASTER SUNDAY MORNING.

JOHN XX, 1—11 (Christ raised from the dead).

O LORD, our gracious God, forgive, we beseech Thee, our transgressions and our omissions of duty, by which we have made ourselves unworthy of such unspeakable kindness and compassion. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding, that we may know what is the hope of our calling. Help our infirmities, that with our whole heart we may rejoice in that glorious Gospel which, banishes every doubt,

turns our fears into gladness, and ministers unto us abundantly an entrance into the everlasting kingdom of glory. Grant, O Lord, that when we praise Thee because Jesus was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification, we may be made partakers of His resurrection, and thus walk in newness of life. When we rejoice that Thou, according to Thine abundant mercy, hast begotten us again unto a lively hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, O then may we purify ourselves, even as He is pure, and seek those things that are above and lay up treasures in heaven. When temptation assails us, and we are in danger of sinning against Thee, when our faith would grow weak and our love become cold, do Thou make us steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know our labor is not in vain in the Lord. May all the joys with which Thou crownest us in this life be made livelier and stronger by the blissful thought that they are but the foretaste of greater joys to come. Amidst all the sufferings of this period of probation, may we be refreshed by the delightful and consoling conviction that through them our Father is preparing His children for a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. When we mourn at the graves of those whom we had loved, may our hearts find comfort in the promise, that they who sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him; and when we ourselves shall be called out of this

world, may our departing spirit abundantly enjoy that assured hope by which we are enabled to say, I know that my Redeemer liveth; O death, where is Thy sting! O grave, where is Thy victory! Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. O Thou God of peace and consolation, hear the voice of our supplication; lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon all who on this day of rejoicing are burdened with sorrow and care, upon all who are oppressed by their fellow-men, upon all who suffer for the sake of truth and conscience, upon all who are surrounded by temptations to sin, upon all who are ready to despair of this grace, upon all that are sick or tormented by the fear of death, upon all who stand at the entrance of the dark valley. May Christ be in them all the hope of glory, that the trials of their faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried by fire, may be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## WHITSUNDAY.

THE ACTS II, 1—22 (Pentecost).

BEHOLD the Lord hath said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and it shall come to pass that whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. O come let us worship before the Lord,

who hath faithfully fulfilled His word. Let us worship and declare the mighty acts of our God. Eternal God, with heartfelt emotion we worship before Thy glorious majesty as the only and everlasting source of all light and life, of all power and happiness. On this solemn festival we bless and praise Thee for the salvation of mankind. We thank Thee with our whole heart that when Christ our Saviour had returned to Thee, Thou didst visit Thy people with new mercies, and established by the outpouring of Thy Holy Spirit the Church of Thy Son upon earth. With grateful hearts we cherish the memory of that blessed name on which, through the gifts and power of Thy Spirit, Thou didst enlighten and sanctify the first friends of the Saviour, and ordain them to be heralds of peace and witnesses for the truth. Trusting in this assurance, we beseech Thee, in the name of Jesus, send Him unto us from Thy high and holy place, and with Him grant us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, that so we may be more and more brought from darkness to light, and be completely delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Enlighten and inspire with holy zeal the hearts of all, as Thou didst on the day of Pentecost our first-born brethren at Jerusalem. And may we obtain a sovereign knowledge of Jesus Christ. Thou Spirit of life, awaken to the life that is of God all who are spiritually dead, and quicken more and more all who have been brought from death to life. Enable us, without any interruption, to keep the

unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Bind up the broken-hearted; raise up those that are bowed down by sorrows and distresses. When we meet with severe trials, do Thou arm us with patience and with firmness of faith; and when our end is at hand, minister encouragement to our souls, that we may triumph over the terrors of death. Grant that in our hearts and in our lives we may bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, which is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, and thereby bear witness with one Spirit that we are indeed the children of God. We humbly beg for Christ's sake. Amen.

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## OPENING SERVICE FOR SABBATH SCHOOL.

BE pleased, O Lord, Thou Giver of all grace and mercy, to regard with favor us Thy needy servants, who have here assembled ourselves in Thy presence. Wouldst Thou divest us of every impure or unholy thought, as we come before Thy throne. May all the members of this Sunday-school be refreshed with the light of Thy presence. May the exercises of this day be profitable unto our souls. May teachers impart instruction in Thy fear, with the love of Jesus in their hearts, and may pupils of every age gain a large supply of that knowledge which is able to make us wise unto salvation, through faith in Christ. Bless the dear little ones, and carry them as the lambs in Thy bosom. Confirm the

young in Thy ways, and help them to hide Thy law in their hearts. Give us all courage and energy to do the work here set before us. Help us to bear the Cross through evil as well as good report, and grant that we be not weary in well-doing, knowing that in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. These and all other blessings do we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CLOSING EXERCISE WITH PRAYER.

FOLLOW with Thy blessing, our Heavenly Father, all the exercises of this day. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. May we go away from Thy house strengthened and improved by what we have learned and received. Keep us in safety during the week to come; yet let us be ever ready to meet the summons which may call us away at any moment from the shores of time. Bring us all back, if it be Thy will, to Thy sanctuary when another Sabbath day shall dawn upon us. Thus, O Lord, if we live, may we live for Thy glory; if we die, may we die in hope of entering upon that rest that remaineth unto the people of God.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not

into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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## MONDAY MORNING PRAYER FOR A SCHOOL.

OUR FATHER in heaven, we Thy creatures desire now to draw near unto Thee, and worship before the Lord our Maker. Thou, O God, hast made us wiser than the beasts of the field or the fowls of the air, and hast given us minds to know, love and enjoy Thee. To Thee, O God, we are indebted for all we possess. We live in Thy world, we breathe Thy air, and are fed at Thy table, and we confess it to be our duty and happiness to love and serve Thee with all our hearts, and to love one another as children of the same Father and members of the same family. O God, forgive all our sins, and may they not rise against us in the judgment to condemn us. May we love our blessed Redeemer, and live henceforth not to ourselves, but to Him who died for us. May we be meek and lowly, and true and kind, as the Son of God was like Him. May we be disposed to help all who are in distress, and to be continually employed in doing good. Bless the youths here before Thee. May they have their minds enlightened and receive that instruction which is needful to fit them for every service to which they shall be called. May they learn to love and serve the Lord,

and to appreciate the importance of their time and privileges. May they so employ the precious time they now possess that they may secure a glorious harvest of present comfort and future glory.

We acknowledge Thy good providence, which has preserved us until another Monday morning. Will God be this day and week our guide and guard. Keep us from all evil, but especially willful transgression. May we resolve that our hearts shall not reproach us so long as we live; and may we die in peace and fall asleep in Jesus, to whose name be all glory, forever and ever.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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## FRIDAY EVENING PRAYER FOR A SCHOOL.

O GOD, Thy goodness is over all Thy works. Thou feedest the ravens when they cry, and givest to every beast his meat. It is Thy hand which spreadest our table and fillest our cup, and though we provoke Thee by our sins, still Thou art doing us good and waiting to be gracious. We thank Thee

that another day and another week have been added to our lives, and that we have been protected by Thy Almighty hand through the dangers we have passed. Look with a favorable regard upon the youths that attend here for the purpose of receiving instruction. May they attain that knowledge and acquire those principles of conduct which shall render them blessings to their friends and society, and ornaments to religion. Bless the families of which they are severally members, and may they who are intrusted with their education feel the importance of bringing them up in the way in which they should go, that when they are old they may not depart from it. Early possess their hearts by Thy heavenly grace; may they be sober, just, holy and temperate, in all things obedient to their parents; and may they return with grateful love the kindness of those who have supported and protected their infant days. May they seek the Lord while he is to be found, and call upon Him while He is near. Bless our native country, and make this the glory of all lands. May the rising generation be a generation to Thy praise. Make us all Thy children; fit us to serve Thee here and to enjoy Thy presence. We humbly beg through the infinite merits of our Redeemer.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not

into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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## ON THE MORNING OF THE MARRIAGE OF A FEMALE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

I. CORINTHIANS VII.

OUR FATHER in heaven, we would together approach Thy throne of grace this morning, gratefully to acknowledge the multitude of Thy mercies, and to implore the continuance of Thy loving kindness. Blessed be Thy great name, that in the riches of Thy grace Thou hast made the amplest provision for our immortal souls. As being guilty and defiled, they do indeed deserve to perish; but Thou hast given Thy beloved Son to be our Saviour, and hast addressed to us in Thy word the overtures of reconciliation. O that Thou wouldst effectually persuade us all to make an unreserved surrender of ourselves, and to join ourselves unto Thee in a perpetual covenant not to be forgotten. Do Thou betroth us unto Thee in loving kindness and tender mercies, and let us enjoy the blessedness and honor of those to whom it is said, Thy Maker is thy husband; the Lord of hosts is His name.

We would unite, O God, in praising Thee for the arrangements which Thou hast made for the peace

and good order of society, and for the innumerable mercies which Thy providence is daily pouring down on the path of our pilgrimage. Do Thou help us in all our ways to acknowledge Thee, that our steps may be directed aright; and shed abroad Thy love in our hearts, that all the events which befall us and all the changes in our lot may work together for our good. On this day would we in a special manner implore Thy blessing. Thou wast pleased to institute in Paradise the relation, and the celebration of a marriage was graced by the presence and honored by the first miracle of our incarnate Lord. Now, therefore, that we have the prospect of having this ordinance observed amongst ourselves, we entreat that Thou wouldst cause Thy blessing to rest upon the head of her who is this day to be separated from her relations, and enrich her with all precious things. (Be very gracious to both the parties who are about to be united in wedlock. Let them be helpers of one another's joy, and live together as heirs of the grace of life. Grant that, like Zacharias and Elizabeth, they may be both righteous before the Lord, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless; and that they may so spend the time of their sojourning here below as to be prepared for spending a blessed eternity together in that more perfect state of being, where they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are all as the angels of God.

Do Thou fit us, Lord, for all the duties and trials to which we are respectively called. To the Saviour

may we be united by a living faith. And so may we live at all times that when the cry is made, "Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him," we may be found with our lamps filled and trimmed, and may be honored to go in ere the door is shut, and to sit down at the marriage-supper of the Lamb.

Heavenly Father, be our guide during the day. Take charge of all that concerns us. And O do Thou grant that whatever changes come over us, we may enjoy Thine unchanging friendship, and that to whatever separations we may be subjected we may still be united in the bonds of the everlasting covenant. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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## IN VIEW OF JOURNEYING.*

O GOD, Thou hast called Thyself the Preserver of men and the length of our days. We are therefore encouraged to commit ourselves to Thy guardian

* To be used in connection with the Morning and Evening Prayer, when necessary.

care in the journey before us. Many have parted with their friends with the hope of soon embracing each other again, but instead of returning to their own dwelling, have been conveyed to the house appointed for all living. We pray, with submission to Thy will, that this may not be our experience. Give Thine angels charge concerning us, to keep us in all our ways. Let no evil befall our persons, and no plague come nigh our dwelling. May we know also that our tabernacle is in peace.

Yet, uncertain what a day may bring forth, may we be prepared for every event of Thy providence; and wherever, in dying, we go from, may it be our happiness to know where we are going to, and rejoice in the prospect that when all our wanderings and partings are ended we shall unite in our Heavenly Father's house, and be forever with the Lord.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING FOR A SAFE RETURN FROM A JOURNEY.*

AS THE Keeper of Israel, Thou hast been with us, not only in the house, but by the way. We might have been injured by wicked and unreasonable men. We might have been left groaning under the pain of bruised or fractured limbs. Our lives might have been spilt, like water on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; and the first tidings that reached our friends might have plunged them into anguish. But all our bones can say, Who is a God like unto Thee! Thy care in our absence has been upon our tabernacle, and secured it from all evil. O that it may be the tabernacle of the righteous, and be ever filled not only with the voice of rejoicing, but of praise. And be with us in all the future journey of life, guide us by Thy counsel, uphold us by Thy power, and supply all our wants, till we come to our Father's house in peace.

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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*To be used in connection with the Morning and Evening Prayer, when necessary.

## A PRAYER FOR RAIN.*

O GOD our Heavenly Father, Thou hast promised to all Thine that seek Thy kingdom and the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance. Send us, we beseech Thee, in our necessity, such moderate rain and showers that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort and to Thy honor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## THANKSGIVING FOR RAIN.*

O LORD, Thou hast sent a gracious rain upon Thine inheritance, to refresh the dry and thirsty land, that it might bring forth fruit and yield to us the desired increase. O Lord, help us to praise Thee for Thy goodness and for Thy wonderful works toward us. And to Thy name be all the glory, now and forevermore. Amen.

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## PRAYERS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN.

### MORNING.

O GOD, Thou art very great, but Thou art very kind. May I fear Thee because of Thy greatness,

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*To be used in connection with the Morning and Evening Prayer, when necessary.

and may I love Thee because of Thy kindness. May I love Jesus, who took little children in His arms and blessed them, and do what He commands me. May I avoid falsehood and quarreling, and all other vices. Bless my parents and all my relations. Keep me this day by Thy power, and answer these my prayers for Christ's sake. Amen.

### EVENING.

THIS night, O Lord, I lift up my voice to thank Thee for all the love Thou hast this day shown me. Thou hast kept me from harm, and hast given me all that I stood in need of. Make me to love Thee more and to serve Thee with all my heart. May my sins be pardoned and my soul saved, for the sake of Christ. Watch over me and all whom I love this night, and spare us to meet on a new day, for Christ's sake. Amen.

### MORNING PRAYER.

GREAT GOD, I thank Thee, who didst keep
Me safe when sunk in helpless sleep.
Preserve me now, I humbly pray,
From sin and danger all the day.
Pardon my sins for Jesus' sake,
And when I die my spirit take.

### EVENING PRAYER.

O LORD, for mercy at Thy throne
I plead, for Jesus' sake alone.

Keep me in safety all the night,
Bless me with health and slumbers light,
And when the grave my bed shall be,
O may my spirit rest with Thee.

EVENING PRAYER.

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.
I humbly beg for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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## GRACE BEFORE MEALS.

I.

BLESS the Lord for these and all other mercies, for Christ's sake. Amen.

II.

INDULGENT LORD, bless these refreshments to our use and us to Thy service, for Christ's sake. Amen.

III.

BLESS, O Lord, we beseech Thee, these refreshments to our use and us to Thy service. We ask for Christ's sake. Amen.

IV.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we beseech Thee to pardon our sins. Bless the refreshments now before us to our

use and us to Thy service, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

V.

BLESS, we pray Thee, our Heavenly Father, this provision of Thy bounty to the nourishment of our bodies and our souls to Thy service, for Christ's sake. Amen.

VI.

O LORD, pardon our sins. Sanctify a portion of this food to the nurture of our bodies and our souls to Thy service, for Christ's sake. Amen.

VII.

O LORD, pardon our sins, and make us grateful for this, another expression of Thy bounty, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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## GRACE AFTER MEALS.

I.

MOST gracious Father, accept our united thanks for the mercies Thou hast now conferred upon us. Forgive all our sins and accept us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

II.

WE thank Thee, O Lord, for the food with which Thou hast supplied us. Bless it to our use, pardon our sins, and provide for our future wants, for Christ's sake. Amen.

III.

ACCEPT our thanks, most gracious Father, for the mercies Thou hast conferred upon us, forgive our sins, and save us in Thy kingdom, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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## BENEDICTIONS.

I.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

II.

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus, to eternal life. Amen.

III.

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory, with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

IV.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

Oh! Lord, we live in a world of sin and wickedness. Satan still walketh about seeking whom he may devour; we are allured by the world in its spirit and practice, and the flesh is weak. We are prone to evil and are easy to form sinful habits and practices. Lord, have mercy upon us!

Oh! Lord, a mighty evil is in our midst. The evil of Intemperance meets our eyes at every turn in life. Drunkenness abounds everywhere. The young and the old, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned are alike victims to the intemperate use of intoxicating drinks. Thou hast said, "No drunkard shall inherit" Thy kingdom. In thy word of divine revelation Thou dost bid us, "Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup. For at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder," and hast assured us, that "they that tarry long at the wine, that seek strong drink," have woes, have sorrows, have contentions, have wounds without cause. And Thou hast pronounced a wo upon "him that putteth the bottle to his neighbor's lips, upon him, that giveth his neighbor strong drink." Oh! make us sensible of the evil growing out of intoxicating liquors, of the wrong of indulging in their use, and the sin of giving or selling strong drink to others. May we possess that spirit which the holy Apostle possessed, when he declared "If meat cause my brother to offend, I will eat no more meat while the world stands, and feel that "It

is good not to eat meat or drink wine whereby our brother is made weak or caused to offend."

Bless all those who have pledged themselves to a life of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks, for their own good and the good of others. Bless all Temperance societies having for their aim the reformation of the fallen, the protection of the weak, and the training up of the young in the ways of sobriety, virtue and religion. Make all the members of these societies, steadfast, true and faithful to their vows; make them fruitful in doing good; give them success in their labor of love, and may the mighty tide of intemperance sweeping over the land be held back and retarded in its progress by their united efforts.

Teach all who would love and serve Thee, the importance of shunning and abstaining from the very appearance of evil, and as strong drink is introducing so much misery and wretchedness in the world, prostrating so much that is great, betraying the man of honor into infamy, the man of virtue and uprightness into sin, blasting and destroying so many tender ties in social life, and robbing the earth of so much of its loveliness, may they shun and abstain from its use, touch it not, taste it not, handle it not. Oh! Lord help them to be willing to deny themselves for the good of others, remembering that we do not live for ourselves alone, but also for others. May the membership of the church of God come up unitedly against this great foe to virtue, to religion, to happiness and heaven. May the drinking usages of society soon be reformed; may wholesome laws against the

traffic in strong drinks be enacted, and may they be sustained by a wise and virtuous public sentiment, and may temperance and sobriety eventually triumph everywhere.

Holy Father we know that we can do nothing without Thy aid and assistance. No society, organization or work of any kind will prosper in our hands unless Thou shall command Thy blessing to rest upon it. Oh! help us in all our efforts to restrain our appetites for that which is not good for us, and in all our labors to win others from wrong habits and propensities, and in all our struggles to scatter the sunshine of happiness around us, by influencing those with whom we associate to be sober, virtuous and good. Lord, Thou knowest how much we need Thy grace and Thy help in the propagation of temperance principles, in the establishment of the virtue of sobriety, and in the execution of every good work we undertake to do. Be Thou our helper and may Thy grace continually sustain us.

We ask these favors and blessings in the name of Thy dear Son, our Saviour, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, we would ascribe present and eternal praises. Amen.

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